United Nations S/PV.4166

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4166th meeting

Thursday, 29 June 2000, 10.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Levitte	(France)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Cappagli
	Bangladesh	Mr. Ahmed
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Theron
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Yel'chenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

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00-50977 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Portugal and Yemen in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Olhaye (Djibouti), Mr. Aboul Gheit (Egypt), Mr. Tessema (Ethiopia), Mr. Dorda (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. Monteiro (Portugal) and Mr. Al-Ashtal (Yemen) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter dated 21 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations, which reads as follows:

> "I have the honour to request that the Security Council extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Dr. Hussein Hassouna, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, to participate in the Council's forthcoming discussion on the situation in Somalia."

That letter has been published as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2000/623.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 to Mr. Hassouna.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

I invite Mr. Prendergast to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Prendergast: With your permission, Mr President, I shall review briefly the political, security and humanitarian developments in Somalia since my most recent briefing to the Security Council, in informal consultations on 23 May.

Members of the Council will recall that on 22 September last year, President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti put forward his plan for peace in Somalia in a speech to the General Assembly here in New York. Consultations followed with a wide range of Somali leaders, and on 21 March, he convened a meeting of 50 Somali intellectuals, who were invited, in their personal capacity, to advise on the peace process. Following those discussions, the Somalia National Peace Conference was formally opened in Djibouti on 2 May.

The delegates to the Conference consisted of elders, traditional leaders and politically active Somalis. All elders, with the exception of about three quarters of the elders of the Issak clan from the self-styled "Somaliland", took part in that phase of the Conference. From May, until it ended on 13 June, the meeting of the elders focused on reconciliation among the clans and on working out an agenda and a list of delegates for phase II of the Conference. The final list of delegates includes a large number of political leaders, former government officials, Somalis from the diaspora and prominent members of civil society.

In spite of efforts by Djibouti and other members of the international community, a number of political leaders refused to take part in the Conference or even to send observers. Most prominent among them were Mohamed Ibrahim Egal of Somaliland and Hussein

Aidid, Osman Hassan Ali Atto and Muse Sudi "Yallahow" of the Hawiye clan. Some leaders who stayed out complained about what they saw as a lack of adequate consultation. Others appeared unhappy about the procedure by which delegates had been selected.

In connection with those who remain outside the process, by far the most serious obstacles are presented by the absence of the two "building blocks" — the self-styled Somaliland and "Puntland". The latter's leader, Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, recently announced the withdrawal of the support of Puntland from the Conference. As regards Somaliland, Mr. Egal has reiterated his position that all options remained open provided that he could negotiate as Somaliland with legitimate leaders from what he termed the "south". The picture regarding Puntland seems a bit more complex. There have been popular demonstrations against the Yusuf administration and in support of the Conference in some five towns in Puntland. Moreover, some members of the Puntland delegation refused to be summoned back to Puntland, and Mr. Hassan Abshir Farah, former mayor of Mogadishu and former Minister in the so-called Puntland administration, was unanimously elected co-Chairman of the Conference. On the other hand, Hassan Mohamed Noor of the Rahanwein Resistance Army, who initially said he would not participate, subsequently joined the Conference. Djibouti is continuing its efforts to persuade certain faction leaders, particularly the Hawiye clan in the Mogadishu area, to revise their hitherto hostile attitude towards the Conference. There remains, therefore, the possibility of further changes in the list of participants at the Conference.

With regard to up-to-date information on the Conference and plans for the immediate future, I shall defer to the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, Ambassador Roble Olhaye, who, I understand, has travelled from the Conference site in Djibouti for this meeting. I therefore propose to limit myself to making a few key points about the Conference.

The total number of delegates to the second phase of the Conference, which opened formally on 15 June, is 920, with each major clan, as well as the Alliance of Minorities and women allocated a certain number of seats, as was agreed in the elders' meeting.

Secondly, the major issues on the agenda of the Conference include security, arms control and disarmament, the future of Mogadishu as capital and the transitional arrangements. A special committee made up of representatives of each participating group has been tasked with drafting documents, including a transitional charter for Somalia. Delegates established another special committee that has discussed mechanisms for future economic and social development. It was agreed that all assets should be returned to their rightful owners through a procedure to be formulated by future authorities.

Finally, on this score, we understand that the leadership of the Conference asked, and Djibouti agreed, that the deliberations be extended for a further two weeks, until 15 July. The aim of the delegates, we understand, would be to come up by then with an interim charter and to select the delegates for a Transitional National Assembly, which will, in turn, select the members of a Transitional National Administration for Somalia.

Turning to the humanitarian aspects of Somalia, during the long, dry *jilaal* season, Gedo, Bakool and northern Hiran regions were considered the worst drought-affected areas of southern Somalia. Three weeks of heavy rainfall from the end of April through the second week of May led to good crop potential, improved access to water and pasture regeneration in most areas. However, there has been little, if any, rainfall since then. Without more rain, drought conditions may again prevail. Crop development would falter, leading to poor harvest levels. Already, 750,000 people across Somalia are highly vulnerable following three consecutive years of below-normal rainfall and dwindling household resource capacities. Crop failure and/or renewed conflict could place fragile livelihoods at risk and generate acute humanitarian crisis in some regions. The situation in the Gedo region is the most alarming.

Water safety in Somalia has always been of paramount importance. Under what in Somalia are termed "normal" conditions, only 25 per cent of the population have access to safe, potable water, but recent rains are expected to ease the severity of the problem. Harvested water contributes some 60 per cent of drinking water, with river water and boreholes accounting for a further 25 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively. However, in drought-affected areas such as northern Gedo and Bakool, boreholes will remain an important source of water. At the moment, it is estimated that only 35 per cent of Somalia's boreholes

are functioning, due to lack of maintenance, poor construction or conflict-related destruction.

Nine nutritional surveys conducted over the past year have reported malnutrition rates of over 20 per cent. I would just like to mention to the Council that a level of 15 per cent is generally accepted as the emergency threshold. Most recently, a survey by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the Gedo region identified 21.5 per cent of children as moderately to severely malnourished. High malnutrition rates indicate poor prospects for livelihood sustainability in the face of crop failure or renewed conflict. So the foundations for future acute crises are being laid. In order to reduce malnutrition in the worst hit areas, the World Food Programme, UNICEF and the World Health Organization need more resources so as to enhance field assessment capacity and integrate interventions to address the multiple needs of the population at risk.

The 2000 United Nations Consolidated Appeal for Somalia, which requested $50.5 million, has received less than 30 per cent of that figure to date. That is a stark figure.

If I may turn for a moment to security, United Nations agencies continue to monitor the security situation in Somalia as part of early warning and emergency preparedness efforts. In order to provide a safer operational environment, the United Nations agencies are enhancing efforts to monitor and prevent future incidents through increased field coordination and community liaison and the implementation of a humanitarian principles programme to structure relationships with de facto authorities.

Personal safety and security remain part of the risk of humanitarian assistance delivery in Somalia and continue to affect all aspects of those activities. I regret to say that the lives of humanitarian staff continue to be lost or put at risk and that, given conditions in Somalia, this is often with impunity. In the most recent fatal incident, on 6 June this year, Mr. Dieter Krasemann, a German national who was working for a German non-governmental organization called Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), was killed in Burao, Somaliland. Mr. Krasemann, who was the GTZ project manager for a demobilization project, was reportedly stabbed in the neck by someone who was called a madman. The Egal administration promised to investigate the killing and requested assistance in having an international psychologist examine the individual, who is under arrest.

On 8 June, a European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) flight was fired upon and struck in a wing as it landed in Merka. The elders in the area claim that this was the act of a disturbed young man with an AK-47. ECHO flights to Merka were immediately suspended. On 11 June, the United Nations announced the suspension of all United Nations common air-service flights to Merka and transferred the common air-service refuelling and transit operations to Baidoa.

I should like to end by making a number of observations. While some personalities and so-called warlords have stayed away from the Somalia National Peace Conference, Djibouti has made commendable efforts to assist the people of Somalia to resolve their conflict by peaceful means. What is taking place in Djibouti is a unique political experience for Somalis. This is the first time that Somali elders from all parts of Somalia have met; it is the first time that representatives of the grass-roots of almost all clans have discussed ways and means of rebuilding their country in a process based on consensus-building from the bottom up; and it is the first time that Somali women have been actively involved. Although Djibouti is acting as host and facilitator, it is clear that the process is Somali-owned. That, it seems to me, is very important. The Djibouti initiative, which has relied on Somalia's traditional system of clans in organizing the Conference, appears to be very much on the right track.

There have been many false dawns in relation to Somalia over the years, but the international community — and, I would suggest, the Security Council in particular — must not fall prey to cynicism or despair, or give up on Somalia. On the contrary, it will be important to encourage as wide a participation in the Conference as possible by giving renewed support to the Djibouti initiative and to the Conference at this stage and by calling on all Somalis to take part in the Conference. We believe that the support of the Council would offer the best deterrence against obstruction that may come from some circles whose privileges and capacity to profit from disorder are threatened by a move towards peace.

We understand that, so far, the Conference has been almost entirely financed by Djibouti. This is placing an intolerable burden on a small State. Again,

we would suggest that it is time for the international community to consider seriously how best to assist Djibouti in its peace initiative for Somalia, especially in material ways. No doubt, the Permanent Representative of Djibouti will elaborate on this aspect during his statement.

Given the worrying humanitarian situation in Somalia, the less than enthusiastic response to the 2000 United Nations Consolidated Appeal for Somalia is a cause for serious concern. I hope that this open debate will contribute to the sensitization of the donor community to Somalia's acute needs and will encourage a more generous response in the near future.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Sir Kieran Prendergast very much for his briefing, which, in describing the overall situation in Somalia and the context in which the Conference undertaken on the excellent initiative of the President of Djibouti is taking place, was a perfect introduction to our debate.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the Permanent Representative of Djibouti. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Olhaye (Djibouti): I wish to congratulate you most warmly, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month, during which you have already displayed your diplomatic and political acumen. May I also extend our gratitude to your predecessor, Ambassador Wang Yingfan.

Let me, at the outset, state how deeply grateful the Somali people — and, indeed, the Government of Djibouti — are for your praiseworthy initiative to schedule a public debate on Somalia during France's presidency. Such a rare debate on Somalia is taking place at the most opportune moment, when a crucial Conference to restore lasting peace and government is now under way in my country. No doubt, such a mark of goodwill towards the people of Somalia will immeasurably boost the morale of the Conference participants and help them to reach a settlement quickly.

The efforts of the Secretary-General in this process have been exemplary. His constant encouragement and support for the Conference and its goals have been pivotal. His call for a unified Somalia in which there exist peace, democracy and development has instilled a realization among the participants that high-level international support and awareness of their efforts are there.

We must also mention the tireless work of the Secretary-General's Representative for Somalia, Mr. David Stephen, who has been in Djibouti since February, continuously interacting with delegates, elders and Djibouti officials to realize the Conference and its successful conclusion.

It may be instructive for me to provide some description to the Council of the actual Conference settings. Any gathering of so many people for such an extended period of time obviously entails strenuous financial and logistical effort. Djibouti is now in the third month of catering to the needs of some 2,000 Somali delegates, elders and observers. Many were transported by air to Djibouti from locations around Somalia at Djibouti's expense. To facilitate the focus and concentration of participants and to isolate them from the diversions and pressures of the capital city, the Conference is being held 40 kilometres away at Arta, a resort town on a hill with a spectacular view of the Red Sea. All private homes have been claimed by the Government to house delegates. In fact, local residents are now a minority. All the requirements of this large contingent of people for food, transport, accommodation and amenities are being met by Djibouti. We have also brought in over 40 Somali singers, composers, poets and comedians to drive home the culture of peace, accommodation and brotherhood. The meeting itself is held in a giant tent. There are no class or social distinctions evident among the participants, who include over 100 women, representatives of all minorities in Somalia, a number of warlords and all clans.

A distinctive feature of this Conference has been the extensive coverage of the proceedings by satellite and on the Internet, allowing Somalis and other interested observers to follow the Conference from anywhere around the globe on a daily basis. The web site "Somalia-rebirth", which we started, receives some 5,000 hits per day and is evidence of the widespread interest in the Conference.

Clearly, the financial burdens and pressures of this all-out effort have proved daunting for a country of Djibouti's size and resources. Djibouti therefore urgently calls on the international community, which has an interest in the final achievement of Somalia's

rebirth, to contribute generously to this enormous burden, almost exclusively borne by us thus far.

For over a decade Somalia has been an international concern, as well as an embarrassment. The very word "Somalia" has come to denote international failure and futility in restoring peace, security and order in a troubled country. Following the widespread revolt against brutal oppression and mismanagement, the country was plunged deeper into chaos and sustained life without government, administration, services or peace. The victorious factions and clans simply turned their weapons upon each other. This violent interfactional fighting resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent Somalis and spread an inevitable air of doom over the country's very survival.

We are all aware of the international community's reaction in the early part of the past decade and its intervention to prevent total disaster and save the country. However, with little to lose, certain faction leaders chose to challenge the United Nations presence in the country and, with the withdrawal of United Nations peacekeeping forces, the situation once again began a spiralling descent into chaos and insecurity.

Time and again, golden opportunities to bring this self-destruction to a halt have been cynically ignored. As we have pointed out in previous statements, it came to be seen that the essential premise, rationale and basis of this continuing conflict were all false and that in the final analysis, the sum total of what was at stake was little more than the excessive egos, personal agendas and fantasies of grandeur of a self-anointed few. The utter disregard for the state and condition of unarmed civilians was stunning to the outside world and became more so as the years rolled by with no apparent resolution in sight.

Sadly, the problem of the warlords is not confined to Somalia, but is found in all corners of the African continent, if not throughout the world. The recent, if not continuing histories of Liberia, Angola, Sierra Leone, Congo and other countries provide a widespread and disturbing regional tapestry of violence and conflict. As has been said so often, correcting this dreadful situation is largely the responsibility of Africa, its people and regional organizations and their sustained and demonstrated will. But it has often also been recognized and stated that the continent cannot be expected to do it alone, without outside help. Where there is evidence of a determination of the people to resolve their problems, the international community should be relied upon to play a constructive role in achieving a final resolution.

With regard to Somalia, such an occasion has fortunately presented itself. Responding to the historic statement of my President, Ismail Omar Guelleh, at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly last year, in which he called for the citizens of Somalia to make themselves heard in order to see to it that their interests, needs, well-being and future received priority, the people of Somalia began to speak out in near unison. Their action was overwhelming and spontaneous, encouraging Djibouti to formalize its proposals in an initiative which received successive support from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States, the United Nations Secretary-General and, of course, this Council. The first phase of the Conference, which had been preceded by a great deal of preparation over the previous nine months, began in Djibouti on 2 May and concluded in early June. This was the most difficult phase of the process, since it was devoted exclusively to healing, reconciliation and overcoming the past.

More than 200 elders and traditional leaders from every part of the country conducted intensive intra- and inter-clan dialogue, seeking to reconcile, forgive one another, overcome a painful past and prepare the ground for the second phase of the Conference, dealing with political issues. This phase was the central pillar of the whole process, and special recognition goes to the tenacity, wisdom and sincerity of the elders. Over 900 official delegates and more than 1,000 others from everywhere are participating in the second phase, which started on 15 June.

Opening the second phase, President Ismail Omar Guelleh warned the Somali people not to repeat past mistakes that led to the collapse of the State. He was blunt in his remarks, and said:

> "If the disease is not properly diagnosed, if people do not ask what went wrong, if they are not careful to avoid falling into the trap again, all those efforts will be in vain. Please keep that in mind. You may want to discuss and analyse the source of Somalia's demise as a State and how to prevent it from ever occurring again. Learn from history. Make sure that the new State that you are

about to reorganize does not carry within itself the germ that may terminate it in the future. Try to establish a new State that is different from the failed one, based on healthy and strong pillars, responsive to the real needs and true aspirations of the masses and based on justice, fairness, democracy and respect for the rights of the individual."

He continued, saying:

"The State must be free from past ills, including abuse of State authority, oppression and dictatorship, clannism and neglect of the common good, disrespect and disregard of the law, misappropriating State property and treating it as personal property, and disrespect for good Somali values and Islamic teachings."

Even prior to the Conference, there was a flurry of activity as Somalis continuously descended on Djibouti, seeking more information and clarification, as well as providing valuable input into the preparatory phase. The President of Djibouti himself visited a number of countries, both within and outside the region, to advance the process and delegations were sent to various regions of Somalia to consult with traditional and political leaders. In March and April of this year, a number of events took place, including a symposium that brought together over 60 Somali professionals, administrators, peace activists and academics, about 20 elders to consult extensively with the President and over 30 businessmen. All these groups issued statements and recommendations.

We have undertaken all these efforts to broaden the base of consultations in order to render the process inclusive and transparent. We have clearly stated all along that the current process is not designed to undermine any of the existing administrative regions that have achieved a measure of relative peace and stability. On the contrary, these units will be key components of any national framework. The ultimate objective of the entire process will be peace, government, legitimacy and reconstruction. It was important, however, to guard the process against divisive personal, clan or regional politics, preset prescriptions and narrow agendas associated with a few individuals or a specific clan or clans.

Many Somalis believe that a central Government enjoying absolute, almost stifling power, accountable to a single person alone, contributed largely to clannism, corruption, waste and excessive violations of human rights. A clear separation, therefore, between central and regional powers, as well as the separation of powers between the branches of government, including a system of accountability, checks and balances, are of paramount importance. The agenda items before the Conference seek to instil a decentralized system of governance, be it regional or federal.

Our approach is holistic, as are those of IGAD, the OAU and the United Nations, insofar as this process embraces the whole of Somalia as one entity. An approach which is not holistic is unrealistic and the onus lies on those who diverge to demonstrate otherwise. The Conference is the only forum for tackling pernicious and divisive national issues.

There are, of course, some who derive considerable benefit out of the current chaotic drift in Somalia and who are in the business of continuously issuing misleading, false and baseless statements against the Conference because they are determined to thwart any meaningful attempt to restore a sovereign national framework in Somalia. In the war-ravaged and politically fragmented Somalia, the situation encourages individuals to pursue profit motives and the accumulation of personal wealth at the expense of national cohesion. So there is an economic dimension to the refusal of some to come to terms with reality, and certainly some of the current rancour is not internal in character. As my President has stated:

"The majority should not remain captive any longer to a few who would not care for the future of the Somali people. Anyone who refuses to be part of the Somali peace process will be left behind. Then it will be up to the Somali people to decide what to do about them."

The international community needs to be cautious and to avoid showing an unwarranted tendency to entertain ideas that impinge on the territorial integrity of Somalia through spurious guises and approaches.

Djibouti, conscious of possible or contrived allegations, has taken into full consideration all areas of concern. Most important of all, we have made certain that the Conference should be — and should be seen to be — fully representative of the entire Somali society: no sector, group, region or individual is excluded, even those individuals with name recognition who make headlines with their refusal to participate

and who speak only for themselves and not for the people in their respective regions. Defying all odds, the people have all come from every district and region of the entire country, regardless of whether a certain leader is for or against the Conference.

The second phase of the Somalia National Peace Conference has made great progress, discussing a wide range of issues. Prime among them are: causes and consequences of the civil strife; human rights; healing and reconciliation; overcoming the past; the national capital; rebuilding the State; return of property unlawfully confiscated; negative economic and social consequences; disarmament and security; and transitional mechanisms, including the constitution, legislature, Government and judiciary. The list of tasks is impressive. The Conference is expected to conclude its work by 15 July and to culminate in the establishment of a transitional assembly and in the election of a president and a prime minister.

The Conference, and the entire process, can well be seen as an innovative approach to the question of conflict-resolution and nation-building. The standard practice has been to concentrate indefinitely on the adversaries and on repeated attempts to bring them together in agreement. Djibouti, however, has reversed that strategy because of repeated failures with the warlords over the past decade, and has sought instead to empower the disenfranchised and unarmed civilian population: the vast majority; the ones who are really suffering; the ones who were betrayed. The people saw this as their last chance, given the level of pervasive hopelessness. President Guelleh's call struck the right chord. The people began challenging the armed groups and other small dictators, to claim their legitimate rights, demanding peace, government and their future.

So, Somalia appears to be on its way to getting back on track towards genuine dialogue. A clear consensus is emerging that holds that this may be the last opportunity to salvage Somalia, and that it must be seized. The process is open, as I have already said; it is transparent and inclusive, and it has been beneficial to all Somalis. They can never go back or relapse to the era of the 1990s. They have awakened and have the will to continue until they attain their legitimate rights.

Let me emphasize once again that the Conference truly represents the broadest, most participatory assemblage ever in Somalia's history. Never before has an important gathering been so representative nationally across the country and so deeply representative in terms of clan, class and economic standing. It has been acknowledged by Somalis everywhere as unique. There is no place for scepticism, false pride or mutual jealousy. The Government of Djibouti is fully aware that IGAD, OAU member States, the European Union, the League of Arab States and the United Nations have all welcomed, fully supported or endorsed the initiative and the peace plan. It is to be hoped that their support for the Conference, as well as for the outcome of the Conference, will be readily available.

The draft presidential statement to be issued following this debate goes a long way to recognizing the current state of affairs in Somalia and the efforts under way. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all members of the Council for their renewed tireless efforts for the revival of that nation, which experienced collapse some 10 years ago and which is now making every effort to come back and take its rightful place in the community of nations.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the Permanent Representative of Djibouti for his extremely complete presentation on the Conference on which President Guelleh has taken such a fine initiative. I thank him too for his account of the progress already made by many representatives of Somali society towards the reconstruction of their State.

Mr. Ouane (Mali) (*spoke in French*): My delegation is grateful to the French delegation for devoting a public meeting to consideration of the situation in Somalia. That is a positive initiative that reflects our interest in that country. We also thank Sir Kieran Prendergast and the representative of Djibouti for the useful information they have provided the Council.

I wish to make a number of comments on the situation in Somalia. First, I stress the urgent need for a comprehensive and lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia based on respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of that country. In that context, the priority objective must be the restoration of State authority in that country, which has been afflicted by years of war.

Secondly, and along the same lines, the Security Council should fully support efforts to resolve the crisis in Somalia, in particular the peace initiative of President Guelleh which the representative of Djibouti has just described. I would recall that the Organization

of African Unity (OAU) has great hopes for that initiative, to which it has already given its complete support. The initiative is a positive development towards the settlement of the crisis in Somalia and is therefore a sign of hope that deserves to be welcomed. That is why we encourage the efforts under way to bring that initiative to fruition.

Thirdly, the Security Council must follow the process of national reconciliation, the main responsibility for which, I would recall, lies with the Somali people themselves. In that connection, we await with interest the completion of the Somalia National Peace Conference. The representative of Djibouti has just described the progress that has been made in that connection. I take this opportunity to appeal to all the Somali parties, including the warlords, to join the process now under way. We also welcome the efforts of the Government of Djibouti to ensure that the Conference proceeds satisfactorily.

Fourthly, I want to express my delegation's grave concern about the very difficult humanitarian situation and about attacks against humanitarian personnel. We call upon all the parties to ensure the security, safety and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and to ensure free access to those who need assistance. We note with satisfaction the international community's coordination efforts.

Fifthly, the return of peace to Somalia will require considerable political and financial support from the international community, and we encourage all States to respond generously to United Nations appeals so that the Organization's relief and reconstruction activities can continue.

Sixthly, the Security Council must ensure strict implementation of the arms embargo. Because of the violations to which many sources attest, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) should be revitalized.

The draft presidential statement which I circulated in yesterday's consultations on behalf of the non-aligned caucus for consideration by the Council, is centred on those points.

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): My delegation wishes to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting of the Council on Somalia. We think it is timely that the Council revisit the subject in this Chamber for an in-depth exchange of views on the situation in that country with the participation of the larger membership of the Organization. We would also like to thank Sir Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, for his succinct yet comprehensive briefing. We have also benefited from the equally useful briefing by the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, Ambassador Roble Olhaye, to whom we express our appreciation.

For far too long, the international community has become disengaged from the tragedy in that part of the Horn of Africa, perhaps because of its past disenchantment. Today, Somalia remains a dysfunctional or failed State. This state of no-war and no-peace prevailing in Somalia cannot be accepted on a permanent basis. As an expression of our support and solidarity with the hapless people of Somalia, we must make every effort to explore avenues for a political settlement of the conflict in that unfortunate country. Our sense of fellowship with the people of Somalia demands that we become fully engaged once again with their country.

It is true that our experience of involvement in the affairs of Somalia has largely been negative. We may want to forget the experience, but we should not discard the lesson. Drawing from the lesson of the past, our re-engagement with Somalia should be aimed, this time around, not at imposing a solution, but to working with the Somali people to find a solution that is viable and acceptable to them — a solution which they have a hand in crafting.

In this regard, my delegation warmly welcomes the peace initiative by the President of Djibouti. We commend President Ismail Omar Guelleh for his bold and timely initiative and his tireless efforts in promoting it out of his sincere concern at the situation in his neighbouring country and his commitment to bring a lasting political settlement of the conflict there. The initiative by Djibouti deserves the strong and unqualified support of the international community. Initiated by a concerned and close neighbour of Somalia, it is virtually home-grown. As Sir Kieran put it, it is "Somali-owned". It pursues a "bottom-up" approach, the approach preferred by the international community, focusing on the people, who really matter, and not on the so-called leaders and warlords who, with their vested and selfish interests, have destroyed the Somali nation.

We are gratified to note that the efforts of President Guelleh have born some positive results and that with the support of members of Somali civil society there is now a glimmer of hope that at long last the civil war in Somalia can be brought to an end, thereby enabling Somalia to recover from a crisis of exceptional complexity which had led to the collapse of the State and had destabilized the entire region of the Horn of Africa. It will allow the reintegration of Somali society and a restoration of the traditional Somali culture of tolerance and accommodation, of which we have often been reminded.

We are encouraged that the Somalia National Peace Conference has now moved into its second phase. Malaysia welcomes this development and hopes that it will pave the way for substantive talks among representatives of all sectors of Somali society on the question of the political future of their country. We also hope that it will lead to an agreement on the formation of a transitional arrangement that would safeguard Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and at the same time prepare the ground for a peaceful and lasting settlement. We are heartened to hear that in the past month or so, Somalis from every walk of life have been increasingly involved in the Djibouti-initiated peace process. They must be further encouraged by a manifestation of strong political and material support by the international community. This point was particularly underscored by Sir Kieran just now.

My delegation believes that a peaceful resolution of the Somali question would have a far-reaching stabilizing effect in a region mired in conflict. The loss of human life in the Horn of Africa on account of conflict and famine has been enormous. The escalating cost of providing humanitarian assistance continues to divert resources, which are always in short supply, from more productive development efforts. It is therefore critical that all diplomatic means be exhausted in support of the Djibouti initiative. We would urge all Somalis to join and support the peace initiative. We are fully cognizant of the fact that the journey towards full and final reconciliation and durable peace in Somalia is likely to be unpredictable and arduous.

We note that, although the Somalia National Peace Conference is a significant step forward, it has been overshadowed by the conspicuous non-participation of some faction leaders who continue to disagree with the objectives of the meeting and the process of reconciliation which it has launched, presumably because they are no longer at the centre of the process. Clearly, the main stumbling block in the peace process is the continued intransigence of the faction leaders. These leaders should realize that they have had their chance to resolve the conflict but have failed miserably and that the people's patience is at an end. They can no longer hold Somalia's destiny to ransom.

Nevertheless, because no lasting peace would be possible without internal reconciliation, every effort should be made to bring these leaders on board the peace initiative. They must be urged — indeed, pressured — both internally by the people themselves and externally by influential actors — to put aside their personal and parochial ambitions and to join the peace process in the larger interest of the Somali nation. This remains a major challenge confronting the international community.

As part of this challenge, it is imperative for the international community to deny these leaders of the means to wage war, by continuing to maintain and to more vigorously enforce the arms embargo on Somalia, as established by resolution 733 (1992). We should be mindful that the civil war could not have been prolonged without the illegal flow and easy availability of arms into Somalia, and we should remind ourselves of our continuing responsibility in this respect.

Malaysia continues to be deeply concerned about the dire humanitarian situation in Somalia and has expressed its appreciation to the efforts of international aid agencies and other relief organizations which have provided succour to the people of Somalia. We condemn the continuing acts of violence against humanitarian personnel and call on all armed groups to fully cooperate with humanitarian relief efforts and guarantee the safety and freedom of all aid workers.

My delegation believes that it is fitting and timely for the Council to pronounce itself once again on the issue of Somalia and to reiterate its strong support for the efforts for a political settlement made by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and to endorse and support the Djibouti peace initiative. Its unambiguous support of the peace initiative will be a clear manifestation of the Council's and the Organization's commitment and active involvement in the important area of peacemaking, which we feel should be pursued in the current state of

no-war no-peace in Somalia so as to prevent the recurrence of a full-blown war.

That window of opportunity may not last long. We need to manifest the Council's willingness to assume its responsibilities under the Charter and reinvigorate its role in partnership with the regional actors, such as IGAD and the Organization of African Unity. We should not allow the Somali people to succumb to despair and a sense of helplessness. We must give them renewed hope and confidence for the future and strengthen their will to support the peace initiative without intimidation from their leaders. We must generate support for the dynamic that has been created by the Djibouti peace initiative and encourage and support its initiator and facilitator, President Guelleh, in his commendable and determined efforts. We cannot afford to be half-hearted in our approach. It is time for the international community to get out of the "Somali syndrome" that has affected us for so long, for we cannot let the people of Somalia down.

Mr. Fowler (Canada) (*spoke in French*): I too, would like to thank Sir Kieran for his briefing, which gave us a basic understanding of recent developments in Somalia. I would also like to thank very sincerely the Ambassador of Djibouti for his very detailed presentation on the creative and innovative efforts made by Djibouti to guide the peace process in Somalia. We are aware of the logistical and substantive difficulties and complexities that these efforts pose and we welcome the resolve with which they are being pursued.

Canada remains deeply concerned by the continuing instability in Somalia and by its negative impact on the security and well-being of the civilian population. We are convinced that concerted action and cooperation between the Security Council, the Organization of African Unity and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) are essential to guarantee the effective participation of the international community in efforts to resolve the conflict in Somalia. This open meeting will be a useful contribution to the process.

We firmly support the lead role being played by IGAD as well as the initiative taken by the President Guelleh to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Somalia. We are happy, therefore, to be able to support the draft presidential statement which was submitted by Mali on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and which I hope the Council will soon adopt.

We urge President Guelleh to continue to give high priority to activities aimed at convincing Somali civil society to support this peace initiative despite the resistance of those who have no interest in seeing peace restored to Somalia.

(*spoke in English*)

Canada welcomes the sanctions committee's decision for the Chairman to undertake a fact-finding mission to neighbouring countries to assess the difficulties encountered in implementing the arms embargo.

We are deeply concerned by the ongoing abuse, with impunity, of human rights in Somalia. We continue to call upon Somali faction leaders to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Somali citizens.

Attacks perpetrated against humanitarian workers, particularly within southern and central Somalia, are unacceptable and only further inhibit the ability of the international and local organizations to assist and protect already vulnerable populations. We remind Somali faction leaders of their obligation to ensure the freedom of movement, safety and security of those seeking only to assist, including locally engaged staff, and to facilitate their access to affected population.

Mr. Theron (Namibia): I wish to join other delegations in thanking you, Sir, for convening this open meeting on the situation in Somalia. Let me also take this opportunity to thank Sir Kieran for the comprehensive and, indeed, useful briefing on the overall situation in that country. I would like to also thank the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, Mr. Roble Olhaye, for a useful update on the developments concerning the ongoing Somalia National Peace Conference in Djibouti. We wish to commend him for the dedicated, excellent and innovative manner in which his Government is organizing the Conference.

The question of Somalia will continue to be a cause of concern for the international community. This is particularly true for the Security Council, which is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. It is thus essential that the Council give its full support to the efforts of the Somali people to

rebuild their country. The absence of a central authority in Somalia and the country's division between antagonistic warlords and faction leaders, as well as the violations of the arms embargo against Somalia, are, among other things, of great concern to my delegation. The Somali people have suffered for too long and it is high time that favourable conditions are created so that they can decide the future of their country.

In our view, it is therefore imperative that the Security Council once again reassert its authority over the situation in Somalia, which continues to be a threat to peace and security in the region. The Council must support the peace process in Somalia, the purpose of which is to restore peace, stability and prosperity to that country. It is against this background that my delegation welcomed and fully supported the Djibouti peace initiative of convening of the Somalia National Peace Conference to enable the Somali people to discuss the future of their country and with a view to creating structures for the normal functioning of their State.

In this regard, we strongly believe that the Djibouti initiative should be endorsed by this Council as the only viable mechanism for the peaceful resolution of the question of Somalia. We also call upon the international community to provide financial and technical support so that the Government of Djibouti can fulfil this task. I want here to echo Mr. Prendergast's words that the international community should not give up on Somalia, but rather continue to assist the peace process.

My delegation is greatly concerned at the reports we continue to receive from various sources regarding the flow of arms into Somalia, despite the Security Council resolutions imposing an arms embargo on that country. In this regard, we commend the efforts of the Chairman of the sanctions Committee for seeking ways and means to strengthen the sanctions regime against Somalia. We call upon Member States, particularly the neighbouring countries of Somalia, to assist the sanctions Committee by providing information related to violations of the arms embargo.

With regard to the humanitarian situation, we commend the excellent job being done by the humanitarian agencies, despite the difficult conditions in which they are operating. The agencies have been able to deliver assistance to the needy — especially the vulnerable groups, such as women and children — amid threats and killings of their workers by the militias. We were also concerned to hear from Mr. Prendergast this morning that as many as 750,000 people are considered highly vulnerable, following three consecutive years of below-normal rainfall and dwindling household resources. We again call upon the donor community to provide adequate financial resources to the humanitarian agencies to enable them to meet the challenges ahead.

Mr. Ahmed (Bangladesh): Let me begin by thanking you, Sir, for scheduling this open debate on the situation in Somalia. My delegation considers it timely, particularly in view of the ongoing Somalia National Peace Conference. Let me also thank the Under-Secretary-General, Sir Kieran Prendergast, and the Permanent Representative of Djibouti for updating us on the latest developments in the Djibouti peace process.

The prolonged suffering of the Somali people — subjected to terror and intimidation — and the unbridled collapse into statelessness must stop. Today, more than 300,000 deaths, a near total destruction of the social and economic infrastructure, a vast majority of unschooled children and a raging famine-like situation are the essential features of Somalia. Seen in this context, the bold and untiring efforts of Djibouti, led by President Guelleh, deserve our all-round support and admiration. We fully endorse his initiative and those of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in seeking a political solution to the crisis in Somalia.

President Guelleh's approach is significant in many ways. Marking a new beginning, it has placed the Somali people and civil society at the centre of the peace process, as represented by various groups. As against the previous attempts at power-sharing between the warlords, which proved unsuccessful and yielded to anarchy, the Djibouti initiative seeks to build on what has been achieved. Yet, it does well not to accord a special status to certain entities in respect of participation in the process. The reason for taking this course is clear, as this should be a matter for the people of Somalia to decide. We consider this approach to be sensible and constructive. Apart from being inclusive, the process is also designed to glean ideas and inputs from the Somali diaspora. We support these principles.

The Somalia National Peace Conference began on 2 May with a well-detailed plan. We are pleased to note

that the initial objective of reconciliation among the clans through their elders was largely achieved through informal, albeit long, consultations.

Work on the core issue has begun with the formation of three committees to deal with issues such as the return of illegally occupied land and property, the election of members of Parliament, the status of "Somaliland" and the status of Mogadishu as the national capital.

It is disturbing to see attempts at blocking the peace process by those whose criminal behaviour and utter disrespect for human rights is the prime reason for the current state of affairs in this country. We strongly condemn the continuing attacks on the civilian population by the warlords and their armed groups. Fearful of losing their grip on illegal power as signs of confidence gradually return to the Somali people, many of the warlords have voiced opposition to the peace process. There are reports that the movements of those who would be willing to participate in the Peace Conference have been hindered. We should condemn such behaviour in one voice and call upon those responsible to stop such attempts to scuttle the peace process.

One factor out of many which has all along contributed to the worsening of the situation in Somalia is the wanton smuggling of arms. The outbreak of conflict elsewhere in the Horn has had a catalytic effect on the influx of illegal arms. In this regard, we call upon all States to cooperate with the relevant sanctions committee of the Council in making the arms embargo more effective.

Before concluding, let me touch upon the other problem that has long afflicted Somalia — that is, the combined effect of drought, disease and environmental degradation, which is perpetuating an endemic humanitarian crisis. The international community should do everything possible to ameliorate the situation while the peace process moves forward, creating conditions favourable to that end. We also underline here the absolute need to ensure a safe operating environment for the aid workers, who have put their lives at risk to save those of others.

Djibouti has mounted a monumental effort from its position as a small and developing country. The stakes are high, and we would not like to see this fail. We therefore call for a clear indication of support to go out from the Council. To that end, we fully endorse the presidential statement that we will adopt later today.

Miss Durrant (Jamaica): Mr. President, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation to you for having convened this public meeting on the situation in Somalia. We also wish to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Sir Kieran Prendergast, and the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, Ambassador Roble Olhaye, for their introductory remarks, which have provided the framework for the Council's deliberations today.

There is no doubt that the crisis in Somalia has been one of the most complex and intractable which the Council has addressed over the past 10 years, during which there has indeed been little progress in the political situation. The numerous inter-clan and intra-clan rivalries, which have resulted in the inability of the faction leaders and warlords to agree on initiatives to end the crisis, have brought untold suffering to the people of Somalia. This has affected the will of the international community to continue its engagement in seeking a solution to the conflict.

It is against this background that my delegation commends the initiative of the President of Djibouti which has led to the convening of the Somalia National Peace Conference. As Ambassador Olhaye reminded us, the hallmark of the Conference has been the involvement of civil society, thus ensuring that the people of Somalia take full responsibility for achieving national reconciliation and peace.

It was a bold stroke for the Government of Djibouti to have gone beyond the warlords and clan leaders to the grass-roots level, and we hope that the broad-based consultations now taking place will result in a compromise which will reflect the needs and aspirations of the people of Somalia.

It is therefore important that the Security Council, through the presidential statement which we will adopt later today, send a strong signal of support for the Djibouti peace initiative and that the international community offer not only moral but material support for the Conference.

We also wish to commend the support shown by the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and other neighbouring States of Somalia in the search for peace.

While noting the positive developments that have taken place at the Conference, we regret that some Somali leaders have rejected any peace proposal, preferring to perpetuate the misery that has been visited on the people of Somalia. We once again call on all the faction leaders to reject the violence and to participate in the Conference.

Somalia will need the assistance of the international community as it rebuilds the social and political basis of its society and seeks to bring about national reconciliation. The United Nations has to become involved in the facilitation of a peaceful solution to the conflict. In particular, we need to maintain a close and constructive relationship with the Government of Djibouti and with the other regional organizations in their efforts to broker peace. We have to effectively lay the groundwork for a sustainable peace so that the process of peace-building can begin.

My delegation wishes to join others in expressing the dire humanitarian situation of the majority of the people. Hundreds of thousands of persons have suffered from the cumulative effects of nearly one decade of armed conflict, a fractured economic infrastructure, low food production and the virtual absence of health and educational services.

We have noted the reports that nearly 1 million Somalis are at risk of facing severe food shortages. The United Nations system has been doing its utmost to provide humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance throughout Somalia under trying circumstances, and we wish to urge those countries that are able to contribute generously to the appeal made recently through the inter-agency consolidated process.

Finally, we wish to pay tribute to the humanitarian workers, some of whom have lost their lives or suffered injury in the service of the people of Somalia. We commend their selflessness and perseverance in the execution of their tasks in these most trying circumstances.

Mr. van Walsum (Netherlands): We would like to thank you, Sir, for calling this open meeting on Somalia, Under-Secretary-General Prendergast for his briefing and Ambassador Roble Olhaye for his extensive oral report on the Djibouti peace initiative.

The Netherlands is certainly not surrendering to cynicism with regard to Somalia. To use Sir Kieran Prendergast's words, we are not giving up on Somalia, and we applaud the initiative of the President of Djibouti.

Meanwhile, we are aware that we are dealing with a country that has been without the structure of a state for several years. If we expect such a country to readopt statehood, it has to be a good State. Ambassador Olhaye made the same point, and we agree with him. We are not calling for statehood at any price.

Later in this debate, the representative of Portugal will make a statement on behalf of the European Union, which my delegation endorses. In addition to that statement, we would like only to make an observation of a more general nature.

I believe we all support the Djibouti peace initiative because no one wants Somalia to disintegrate beyond repair. We want Somalia to be reborn as one State, because we subscribe to the doctrine of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the sanctity of borders. Our support for that doctrine, however, is not entirely unqualified. Inviolate borders are a blessing if they enclose a country where fundamental rights are respected. If not, the borders themselves can become an instrument of coercion. If a State has not existed for a number of years, but certain parts of it have managed to organize themselves more or less successfully, the doctrine of inviolate borders cannot imply that these parts are expected to surrender their freedom and their success to just any political entity that is supposed to be the successor of the earlier State. The rebirth of Somalia, if it is to succeed, will have to be perceived as progress in all parts of the country. In the end, the responsibility for achieving national reconciliation and peace rests with all the Somali people.

Mr. Wang Yingfan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation is grateful to Mr. Prendergast, the Under-Secretary-General, and to Ambassador Olhaye, the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, for their briefings. We would also like to express our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for having convened this public meeting. This is the first open debate in the Security Council in recent years on the question of Somalia. We hope that this debate will give an impetus to efforts for an early resolution of the question of Somalia.

The past few months have witnessed a series of new developments in the peace process in Somalia.

The Somalia National Peace Conference has recently moved into its second phase, and the progress achieved so far is the result of joint efforts by all sides and is a reflection of the various Somali clans' strong desire for peace. We hope that the Somalia National Peace Conference will bear fruit as soon as possible and that the participants in the Conference will soon reach an understanding on core questions, such as the establishment of a transitional government and a transitional parliament.

We greatly appreciate the strenuous efforts of President Guelleh and the Government of Djibouti to attain peace in Somalia. The entire population of Djibouti supports the peace process in Somalia, and has made very valuable contributions to the process. We appeal to the international community to provide all necessary assistance to Djibouti so as to help it successfully implement President Guelleh's initiative. At the same time, we strongly urge the leaders of the main Somali factions who have stayed away from the National Peace Conference to manifest the necessary political courage and political wisdom to take part in the peace process. Any action detrimental to the attainment of peace in Somalia will be rejected by the Somali people.

The effective implementation of the arms embargo against Somalia will doubtless promote the peace process there. However, for too long the relevant sanctions have not been implemented. We hope that this situation will be rectified as soon as possible. In this regard, we would like to express our appreciation for the commitment of the Chairman of the sanctions Committee, Ambassador Ben Mustapha of Tunisia. We fully support his work and hope that the countries and regional organizations concerned will cooperate actively with him.

As a result of the prolonged civil strife, the humanitarian situation in Somalia remains very grave. We appreciate the efforts made by the humanitarian personnel who have been providing aid in Somalia for many years. We urge the armed groups to ensure the freedom and safety of humanitarian personnel and to provide the necessary guarantees for their access to the population.

The United Nations has experienced setbacks in Somalia. It should avail itself of this window of opportunity and increase its input with regard to Somalia, help Djibouti achieve success in its peace initiative as soon as possible and make a substantial contribution to the resolution of the question of Somalia.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Russia has always advocated the speedy attainment of a comprehensive political settlement and national reconciliation in Somalia, and the maintenance of a unified Somali State. As the Council knows, the plight of the Somali people is not the result of religious or ethnic antagonism, but of deep-seated inter-clan fragmentation and the ambitions of certain leaders. These are the main obstacles to the restoration of the unity of the country.

Experience over many years has shown that, despite the fact that there has been no lack of peace initiatives for Somalia, to a large extent, the viability of such initiatives has depended on the level of support for them within Somali society. In this context, as always, the main issue is whether or not it will be possible to include as broad a spectrum of Somali society and political forces as possible in the talks on the future of Somalia. Furthermore, the success of the peace process will continue to depend on the involvement of the leaders of the clan-based armed groups, who really control the situation in most regions of Somalia.

It is also in this context that we view the negotiating process that is taking place within the Somalia National Peace Conference being held in Djibouti, and we hope that it will achieve positive results. Comparing Djibouti's initiative to a ship over which the Somalis themselves should assume control is a very accurate way of describing the essence of what remains to be attained. It is also important that, at the international level, interested States continue to ensure favourable, non-confrontational conditions for a pan-Somali reconciliation based on principles that do not run counter to the territorial integrity and unity of Somalia.

We share the concern of the international community regarding the dire humanitarian situation in Somalia. Russia believes that the active work of the humanitarian organizations in the country should continue, given their key role in providing assistance to the population. Like other members of the Security Council, we are deeply concerned about the constant attacks on humanitarian personnel in various parts of Somalia, which impede their work and also make it

difficult to implement plans for a gradual transfer to the country of the offices of United Nations programmes and specialized agencies.

Russia's participation as an observer in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Partners Forum is proof of our desire to contribute to the settlement of conflict situations in the vast region of Eastern Africa and to ensure peace and stability there. Russia is involved on a regular basis in the work of the IGAD Partners Forum, within both the Committee on Somalia and the Committee on the Sudan. As a member of the Security Council and an old friend of the Somali people, Russia will continue to support the cause of restoring statehood to Somalia based on conditions that are in the interests of Somali society and of stability in the region as a whole.

Mr. Yel'chenko (Ukraine): My delegation is gratified to have this opportunity to hear, in an open meeting, a first-hand account of the latest developments in the peace process in Somalia. We welcome this exchange of views on what the Security Council and the whole international community can and should do to support the efforts of the Somali people to bring peace, stability and prosperity back to their land.

Indeed, in terms of modern history, the experience of Somalia may represent a unique case of the return to the international community of a collapsed State. That is why we consider the efforts of the Government of Djibouti to be extremely important and commend its commitment to push forward the process of normalization in Somalia. The very fact that it has succeeded in going this far in implementing the peace plan — we thank Ambassador Olhaye of Djibouti for bringing us up to date and for providing his analysis of developments — is, indeed, evidence of the viability of its design and of a realistic approach to its realization.

We must recognize that what has already been achieved is considerable progress compared to previous attempts to restore the country. We must therefore not allow this latest effort to fail after having advanced to the stage where it is now, for this would have catastrophic consequences for the unity of Somalia and its people.

Separatism must not be allowed to set roots in Africa under any circumstances. In this context, the non-participation of Somaliland in the Djibouti Peace Conference, and especially the recent accusations by its leaders against Djibouti, are increasingly disturbing. We therefore support the idea that only the mounting pressure of the international community on the leadership of Somaliland, as well as on leaders of other entities and factions who continue to defy the ongoing peace process, can help break their intransigence and obstruction.

I would also agree that the present achievement has given rise to strong hopes for overall success, and this situation calls for consistent supportive action on the part of the Security Council and other international actors. Although the very process of restoring the national Government and the State of Somalia remains in the hands of the Somalis — or, as Sir Kieran rightly put it, is "Somali-owned" — the Security Council and the international community at large must be ready to provide practical support to these efforts — including by being prepared, at a certain stage, to recognize the provisional administration of the country after its formation by the future Transitional National Assembly. Such a step, I believe, will be crucial for a lasting settlement in Somalia.

Providing financial and technical support to the Conference and to its organizers is no less important for the continuation of the peace process. Started several months ago, it has already consumed a considerable amount of resources, which are close to their limit.

It is also important to look ahead and to expect that further support will be needed by the future Somali Government, which will encounter a great many problems inherited from the past. The decade of civil war and lawlessness has claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people and caused the destruction of hundreds of homes and villages and other private and public property, as well as the displacement of millions of Somalis. The international community should therefore also be prepared to provide support to the process of national reconciliation and to assist the Somali people in solving the problems of national reconstruction and development.

Decentralization and self-administration are important concepts in the peace initiative put forward by President Guelleh of Djibouti. In this connection, let me stress the importance of ensuring the country's stability by establishing a truly federal system of governance that would balance the power of the central Government.

In conclusion, let me wish the Government and the President of Djibouti every success in this noble endeavour, which is very much on the right track. It must be supported by the Security Council. We look forward to the presidential statement to be adopted shortly.

Ms. Soderberg (United States of America): I commend your leadership, Mr. President, in holding this open meeting today. I think Somalia has been on the agenda of the Council for many years. The more international attention that we can bring to the ongoing difficulties there, the better.

Last August, the Secretary-General appealed to the international community to engage actively in resolving the crisis in Somalia. Djibouti and President Guelleh took up that challenge. He and a broad range of Somali leaders worked diligently to promote the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia. What they have already achieved in terms of re-establishing a dialogue is impressive. Indeed, the discussions that have been taking place since 2 May, which have brought together leaders of civil society, women's groups, clan representatives and faction leaders, would have seemed impossible only a short while ago.

While some basic steps have been taken, there are still many hurdles ahead. Even if the current discussions in Djibouti produce a blueprint for an interim Government, we must remember that this is only the first step, and perhaps the easiest step, towards the rehabilitation of Somalia. The task of transforming that structure into a functioning, effective, permanent, representative Government will be far more difficult. The United States intends to remain fully engaged in those efforts, but only the commitment of the Somali people themselves can ensure its success. Once the Somalis have demonstrated through solid achievements on the ground that they are making this process work, the international community will want to review how best to support their efforts.

Given the previous failure of overly ambitious efforts to rebuild Somalia, the United States is committed to an incremental, long-term approach that seeks to rebuild the Somali polity from the bottom up through support for regional entities that emerge from participatory processes. These efforts offer, in our view, the best hope for the creation of a stable, durable and democratic Somalia. They should be seen as complementary to the work done by the Somalis convened at Arta.

In line with this approach, and in recognition of the positive and peaceful evolution taking place in some regions, we have focused our assistance on the areas of relative stability, including Somaliland and Puntland. Also, our humanitarian assistance strategy is evolving. Unconditional food aid distribution is increasingly being replaced with food-for-work activities, and our disaster assistance projects are placing greater emphasis on the activities that have a mitigation focus and a transitional nature, as opposed to pure relief.

We applaud the efforts of President Guelleh and the Government of Djibouti, and we will watch the unfolding of the current initiative with the utmost interest and encouragement. In the end, any effort to rebuild Somalia must be an all-inclusive process that enjoys the support of existing regional entities and that is based on a legitimate participatory process that derives from Somali civil society and rejects the predatory violence of the warlords.

Mr. Cappagli (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me first of all to express my appreciation for the format of this meeting on Somalia. Undoubtedly, the active and broad participation of the Members of our Organization will help us find a solution to the conflict.

We also wish to express our thanks for the very complete information updating the situation in Somalia and the recent developments in the peace initiative presented to us by both Under-Secretary-General Kieran Prendergast and the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, Ambassador Olhaye.

We are dealing with a complex conflict that has lasted for too many years despite the fact that Somalia, unlike other African countries and countries in other parts of the world, is religiously and ethnically a homogeneous society whose territory does not have a particularly uneven distribution of natural resources. Nevertheless, this has not prevented the violent break-up of the Somali State, which started at the beginning of the last decade.

We are concerned that efforts undertaken by the international community in the past to resolve the conflict in Somalia have yielded meagre results and that, as a consequence, its population continues to bear the burden of this tragedy on its back, with the terrible

humanitarian consequences we are all aware of. We believe that the time has come to overcome the "Somalia syndrome", and for the Council to work actively, together with the other actors involved, towards a definitive solution. This attitude will also have positive effects on our approaches to other African conflicts.

The peace initiative launched by Djibouti last year must be the main instrument for making progress towards a peaceful solution of the Somali conflict and must be supported by the Council. We would like to associate ourselves with delegations that preceded in expressing our appreciation to the Government of Djibouti for the efforts it is making to move the plan forward, which have cost it considerable financial resources. The opportunity created by that initiative must be used to move in a positive direction that is acceptable to all Somali society, since it is the principal party concerned and the ultimate beneficiary of all the efforts for peace.

The task of rebuilding the country, as outlined in the plan presented by President Omar Guelleh, includes all of civil society, not only the warlords. We must be clear on this aspect. Participation in the National Peace Conference in Djibouti by all sectors from all regions is necessary for it to be representative and to achieve results that can be implemented immediately. In this respect, we urge that participation in the Conference not be hindered.

Somalia is no stranger to the grave humanitarian situation confronting the entire Horn of Africa region. In this regard, I need only cite the statement made by Ms. Catherine Bertini of the World Food Programme on 16 May 2000: "The lives of 13 million persons in the Horn of Africa are at risk."

We also reiterate our concern at recent information indicating ongoing violence and inter-clan confrontations, particularly in the southern region, and at the negative impact of violence on humanitarian assistance tasks. This assistance is increasingly necessary, given the ongoing deterioration of the living conditions of the population. We must pay our sincerest tribute to the self-sacrificing work of the humanitarian workers, who, under very difficult conditions, continue to provide assistance to the Somali people — in some cases, even at the cost of their own lives. The security and safety of humanitarian personnel must be respected.

We wish to conclude by reaffirming our position in favour of respect for the maintenance of the independence, territorial integrity and unity of Somalia.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Prendergast for his informative and detailed briefing on Somalia. It is good to have the Security Council discussing Somalia. It has, perhaps, been neglected for too long. We welcome the participation of Ambassador Olhaye in this important debate. His briefing on Djibouti's commendable efforts, led by President Guelleh, to restore peace and stability to Somalia was helpful and interesting.

We support the main principles guiding Djibouti's initiative: the need to make the peace process inclusive; the importance of enhancing the role of civil society to build peace from the bottom up, rather than impose it from above; and, in this context, the need to marginalize the destructive influence of the warlords. We acknowledge the fact that many Somalis have participated in Djibouti's peace process, but we are concerned that some elements of Somali society are still not represented. We would encourage all regions of Somalia to take part in the peace and reconciliation process. Only this will create the environment for an inclusive determination by the Somali people of a lasting political solution to the problems of the Somali Republic.

This is an important initiative. Sir Kieran Prendergast called it a unique political experience for Somalis, and we must not let it lose momentum. The longer the talks continue — and the progress made in this month's Conference is encouraging in this respect — the greater the chance that more and different elements of Somali society will become involved. We urge the Somali people to continue down this difficult path and to embrace this opportunity for peace.

Djibouti's efforts should not be seen as a quick fix. They constitute a process towards a lasting and viable solution to a complicated and entrenched problem. As such, we would urge Djibouti to proceed with caution. To impose a Government without the broadest possible consultation of all groups may only result in undermining the relative peace and stability in some self-administered areas, for example the northern regions. In this respect, we very much hope that it will indeed be possible to establish a transitional national

authority. We also welcome the United Nations involvement in this initiative, and we particularly commend the efforts of David Stephen and of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia.

We agree with the Secretary-General's call for the international financial institutions to exercise flexibility in taking account of the unique situation presented by Somalia. We would support the idea of the international financial institutions engaging in negotiations with administrations in stable areas as a first step. They should, of course, look carefully at issues of transparency and accountability before making financial commitments.

The grave humanitarian situation disturbs us all deeply. Somalia continues to suffer from food shortages and health problems, including serious cholera epidemics. Many Somalis are displaced. We commend the brave and tireless efforts of humanitarian personnel working in this very insecure and challenging situation. We must insist on proper protection for them. We call on all conflicting parties to recognize the impartiality of the relief agencies and to afford their personnel all possible security and cooperation.

Somalia is a poverty-stricken country, ravaged by failure of governance, conflict, drought, flooding, epidemics and food shortages, yet arms still continue to flow into the country. All Governments must comply with the arms embargo established by Security Council resolution 733 (1992). We commend the efforts of Ambassador Ben Mustapha, as Chairman of the sanctions Committee, to try and revitalize this Committee and make its work more effective.

The United Kingdom will continue to follow the situation in Somalia closely. We stand, as always, ready to respond to urgent humanitarian and emergency needs, and take note of the concern expressed on funding by both the Under-Secretary-General and Ambassador Olhaye.

Mr. Ben Mustapha (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): We join the other Security Council members in thanking Mr. Prendergast for the detailed and complete briefing he gave us on developments in the situation in Somalia. I also wish to thank Mr. Olhaye, the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, for the detailed information he shared with us regarding the progress made in the implementation of the peace process. I wish to pay a tribute on this occasion to President Guelleh for his commendable initiative and efforts to convene the Somalia National Peace Conference.

I would like to reiterate my country's commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Somali crisis, which must take into consideration the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Somalia, thereby promoting national reconciliation in that country. A political solution to the crisis on the basis of the broadest possible participation of all components of Somali society is, in our opinion, a prerequisite for the success of all efforts under way. The restoration of peace and stability in Somalia also requires the financial and technical support of States and international organizations for the Djibouti Government's efforts.

The holding of the Somalia National Peace Conference at Arta in Djibouti represents important progress towards a definitive and comprehensive solution in the framework of the peace process. Above and beyond the Conference itself, that meeting reflects the determination and commitment of the Somali people to moving forward and to participating in reconstruction and the establishment of a national transitional authority.

In this regard, we appeal to the parties that have not yet joined the peace process to avoid hampering the participation of those who wish to participate in it. We believe that all Somalis must take this opportunity to participate in restoring lasting stability and security to Somalia, which for decades has experienced only destabilization and where at least one entire generation has not had the opportunity to lead a normal life in safety and with the hope of being able to plan its long-term future.

My country, being African and Arab, has worked tirelessly for Somalia to become reconciled with itself and for the Somalis, who are entitled to live in peace, to become aware of their common destiny, which has been and remains impossible to shape outside the framework of a common national identity.

There is no need to emphasize that everyone shares the disquiet felt by all Somalis when they hear it said that a given crisis, whether in Africa or elsewhere, can be compared to Somalia because of the derogatory connotations of the name of that country — which is in fact full of goodwill and inhabited by a noble people with a great history and high hopes. Seeing the image of that fraternal country used as a media leitmotif is

painful to us in Tunisia, throughout the Arab world, in Africa and elsewhere, because we know that the Somali people do not deserve to be held up as a bad example.

As Chairman of the Security Council Committee on Somalia sanctions I have, with the valuable assistance and support of all other members of the Committee, revived the Committee's meeting with a view to creating the best conditions for strict respect for the arms embargo. Our approach in the Committee cannot and must not be perceived as punitive; quite the contrary, we see it — and all members will agree — as a way to make an effective contribution to ensuring that the language of weapons, which has for long years only fuelled the cycle of violence and discord in Somalia, will yield to negotiation and to dialogue, which alone can make possible a national solution in Somalia and lasting reconciliation among Somalis.

In our work in that Committee, we have involved all States members of the United Nations, of the Organization of African Unity, of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and of the League of Arab States to help ensure that the embargo is observed and that it yields the results expected of it. It is in that framework that the Committee intends to send a mission to the region in order to secure the broadest possible participation by the parties concerned. The Secretariat is now making arrangements for the mission.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of France.

I too wish to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Prendergast, and the representative of Djibouti, Mr. Olhaye, for their briefings on the situation. I shall confine myself to making a few general comments, as the representative of Portugal will later make a statement on behalf of the European Union, which my delegation fully endorses.

In the view of my delegation, the holding of another open Security Council debate on the situation in Somalia is of particular importance for three reasons. First of all, it shows that the Council is committed to the resolution of all crises, both those that are covered by the international press and those that are no longer in the spotlight. I want to state clearly that there are no "forgotten" crises on the agenda of the Security Council. The failure of one method of intervention should not automatically lead to inertia. We must learn from our past difficulties to see how the United Nations can support peace in Somalia and facilitate the rebirth of that country.

Secondly, this debate is important because it once again underscores the Council's concern for sustaining and supporting regional peace initiatives whenever the opportunity arises. Here I would refer, of course, to the initiative of the signatories of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the initiative of the Economic Community of West African States on Sierra Leone, to the Organization of African Unity initiative to resolve the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea and, finally, to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development initiative for Somalia. With respect to the latter, we especially welcome the involvement of Djibouti through the initiative taken by President Guelleh to secure a lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia.

Thirdly, this debate is important because it will enable us finally to endorse a process which, although it has sometimes been difficult, has nonetheless been exemplary. Unlike previous peace plans for Somalia — which, I need hardly recall, have all failed — the initiative of the President of Djibouti refuses to let the success of the plan depend on the whims of the warlords. Ambassador Olhaye's statement earlier this morning was eloquent testimony to that. The peace process led by President Guelleh has given a voice to civil society: to the population that has been a victim of the conflict. Elders, intellectuals, local non-governmental organizations, women's groups, religious leaders and exiles have all without exception had an opportunity to state their views about the future of their country, and have demonstrated their profound weariness at the continuation of the conflict.

France therefore considers it very important that the international community now give unequivocal support to Djibouti — not merely moral support but support with a financial dimension as well, which will make it possible to see through to the end a process that is off to such a good start.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The next speaker is the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Dorda (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I wish at the outset, Mr. President, to thank you and to congratulate you on the work that you and your colleagues in the French delegation have done to ensure the success of the work of the Security Council this month, especially as regards transparency and your excellent relationship with non-members of the Council. I am saying this not merely as a traditional expression of appreciation, but as a statement of facts that have been noted by other speakers as well. We hope that all other States, especially States members of the Council, will follow your example in this regard.

I wish to express our appreciation also to Sir Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, for his important statement and for his valuable advice and serious-minded proposals. His advice to the Council not to yield to hopelessness was extremely valuable and ought to be followed. We also thank the representative of Djibouti for his comprehensive presentation.

Somalia has long been left on the sidelines and neglected by the United Nations due to the erroneous perception of certain States that they represented the international community and could do whatever they wished on its behalf. Action was taken inappropriately. The situation in Somalia had been intolerable for a very long time. That situation was rejected by the international community as a whole, just as it had been rejected by the Somali people themselves.

We hope that this meeting will represent a concrete new beginning in the revival of the international community's interest in Somalia and that it will assist the Somali people in regaining unity, stability and the achievement of development through their territory.

The initiative of Mr. Omar Guelleh, the President of Djibouti, could not have come at a better time. It requires the full material and political support of the international community if it is to achieve its objectives — material support to enable Djibouti to continue hosting the reconciliation Conference and political support to bring pressure to bear on all Somali parties to participate successfully in the Conference.

We should not stand aside wondering or expressing doubt about the possibility of participation or non-participation. All those who object to or display scepticism at the possibility of the Djibouti initiative's success will drop their objection and scepticism when faced with the international community's determination to support the initiative and ensure its successful conclusion. We do not expect things to change overnight, but with perseverance and determination we will realize our desired objectives. Therefore, we should not cease bringing pressure to bear on the parties that object to the convening of the Conference to participate in it and to work for its successful conclusion.

My country's interest in and concern for Somalia is not recent. It dates back to the beginning of the crisis. We have invited the Somali faction leaders and held conferences and meetings in Libya and in other capitals and countries, all in the interest of national reconciliation in Somalia. We have participated in and supported, both materially and financially, all conferences aimed at that same objective. We have contributed to improving relations between the various Somali factions and neighbouring countries, such as Ethiopia. Our interest and concern for Somalia dates back to the beginning of the crisis and is demonstrated by the presence of the Libyan diplomatic mission, which may be the only one remaining in Somalia, in spite of deteriorating security conditions. My country has declared its financial and political support for the Djibouti President's initiative and continues to provide humanitarian assistance to the Somali people.

My country's position vis-à-vis the crisis in Somalia is based on the following objectives: reunification of the territories and people of Somalia; rejection of fragmentation; peace and stability in a united and independent Somalia; dealing with all representatives of the Somali factions and urging them to come to the negotiating table to settle their differences by peaceful means; and the rejection of violence or any attempt to reach solutions militarily. The United Nations should not let Somalia down; it should return to Somalia in a forceful way.

We would also like to stress that the Security Council is about to take practical measures to support the initiative of the President of Djibouti, both politically and materially, which should enable Somalia to regain its normalcy.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker on my list is the Permanent Representative of Yemen. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Al-Ashtal (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, Sir, allow me to congratulate you very sincerely on your wise and skilful management of the work of the Council this month. I would also like to thank your predecessor, the Ambassador of China.

Our country is concerned at the situation and developments in Somalia because of the historic ties between our two countries. These ties have evolved into a very close family relationship in our community of States. Events in Somalia have an impact on Yemen and its people. We are host to many Somali refugees and are suffering from additional social and economic burdens that are beyond our resources to sustain. My country has therefore consistently contributed to the international community's efforts to resolve the situation in Somalia in a peaceful, democratic way.

The Republic of Yemen has already convened a meeting of all Somali parties in Sana'a to negotiate and to find a solution that would restore statehood and government to Somalia, as well as security, peace and stability.

At one time or another, we have all tested many different and contradictory initiatives, and sometimes parallel formulas, to try to resolve the crisis in Somalia, but none of them have broken the impasse. That is why the Djibouti initiative was taken and blessed by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the League of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement. This initiative should be supported by the United Nations and by the international community.

We pay tribute here to the Government of Djibouti and to its President, Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh, for having personally endorsed the initiative and for having held a Conference on national dialogue in Djibouti on Somalia. We believe that his initiative gives grounds for much hope, because it is a real attempt to restore stability and security, not only in Somalia but also in the entire Horn of Africa. I wish to pay tribute to the statement made by the Ambassador of Djibouti, as well as the steps he enumerated for holding a meeting on 15 July.

We should also stress one other important thing, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report (document S/1999/882): the people of Somalia are primarily responsible for finding a solution to their situation. No one can help them if they do not help themselves. Therefore, we call upon the United Nations and the international community to guarantee a real presence in Somalia, through civil institutions, to help that country resolve its crisis, create its State and institutions and regain its role and status in the international community. I wish here to stress Security Council resolution 733 (1992), which calls upon all external parties to comply with the resolution and to see to its implementation, so that the conflict between rivals outside Somalia does not spill over into Somalia itself. Otherwise, the conflict will go on, to the detriment of all efforts and attempts made by the United Nations and the international community to put an end to this tragic situation, which has gone on for almost two decades now.

Attention should be paid to the devastation of natural resources and the looting that has gone on in Somalia. We call on all interested parties to respect the sovereignty of Somalia and to terminate any action that might lead to a transfer of control over these resources.

The President (*spoke in* French): The next speaker on my list is the Ambassador of Egypt. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Aboul Gheit (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to express to you, Sir, our great appreciation for the interest in the conflict in Somalia that you have demonstrated during your presidency of the Council this month. It will undoubtedly contribute to successfully and appropriately restoring the question of Somalia to the agenda of the Security Council and of the international community in the coming months. This is particularly true given the developments taking place on this issue within the framework of the Djibouti initiative.

I would like to stress once again the approach to the Somali crisis that Egypt has maintained consistently since the crisis broke out. The elements of this approach are the preservation of the unity and independence of Somalia and opposition to the principle of the division of Somalia and to the establishment of autonomous entities within the country. In seeking to promote this approach, Egypt has been making use of its contacts in various international forums and with people involved in

Somalia. Because we believe in the unity of Somalia, we seek to maintain a balance in our approach to and contacts among all Somali provinces. We are providing humanitarian and technical assistance to all Somalis. We are eager to develop our relations with the two administrations of Somaliland and Puntland in the framework of maintaining one Somalia.

Egypt believes that responsibility for the solution to the Somali question rests with the Somalis themselves, including the leaders of civil society and of the warring factions. We believe that international intervention, be it collective or individual, must be in the context of support for the realization of the unity and territorial integrity of Somalia. Egypt therefore welcomes and supports the Djibouti initiative. We bless the efforts of President Ismail Guelleh and express our confidence that he can carry out this difficult mission.

Egypt also believes that the Djibouti initiative represents an appropriate framework, commensurate with the Somali situation and environment, for the solution of the conflict. This, in our view, will guarantee the return of stability and peace to Somalia and ultimately lead to stability in the Horn of Africa region.

The Djibouti initiative met with success during the first phase of the Somalia National Peace Conference. The meetings held under this formula were able to settle many of the differences between the warring factions and clans, particularly between the Hawiye and the Darod. We consider this to be a positive step towards the realization of national reconciliation. We hope that the second phase of the Somalia National Peace Conference in Djibouti will lead to a solution to the political questions, including the establishment of executive and legislative State institutions, in a way that guarantees a calm transition in which the Somalis can reunify their territories.

The upcoming phase requires us to work seriously to help the Somalis to recover their national territories and territorial integrity and to guarantee that they are able to overcome the crisis after a full decade of human tragedy and suffering. We therefore underscore the importance of the international community's support for the Djibouti initiative. We believe that the international community must provide all the assistance necessary to urge the various Somali leaders who have chosen to boycott the initiative to approach it in a positive manner.

We believe that it is important to increase humanitarian assistance to Somalis throughout Somalia and to contribute to rebuilding the Somali infrastructure. We also believe that the international community must seriously consider coordinating international demining efforts, since landmines prevent a return to normal life in Somalia. We must also seriously implement Security Council resolution 733 (1992) regarding the arms embargo against Somalia.

The President (*spoke in French*): The next speaker on my list is the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States, Mr. Hussein Hassouna. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Hassouna (League of Arab States) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to extend to you, Sir, our sincere thanks for allowing our delegation to address the Council under your presidency this month. You are from a country that we hold in high esteem. We cherish your country's friendship with the Arab world and its support of our just causes.

The League of Arab States firmly believes in the importance of the role played by the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. The cooperation of the League of Arab States with the Council is based on our position of principle, which is embodied in the League's participation in the Council's work, its cooperation with the Council and its continuous support for the Council's efforts.

Our delegation would like to recall that the relationship of the Somali people with the Arab nation has deep historical roots. It was crowned by Somalia's joining the League of Arab States in 1974. This historical and organic relationship requires us not to abandon the fraternal Somali people and to continue to support them fully, so that they can find a way out of their current predicament and regain authority over their national soil and unified country. The League will stand side by side with the Somali people in helping them rebuild and rehabilitate their country, so that they can resume their prestigious place among the peoples of the world.

There is no doubt that the Arab, African and Islamic character of Somalia, as well as its membership in the United Nations, demand that all the international organizations to which Somalia belongs continue to cooperate and to coordinate their efforts so that peace

and stability — the coveted objectives — can be restored to Somalia.

We firmly believe, however, that the solution to the Somali question lies in the hands of the Somalis themselves. They should be supported and assisted to achieve this solution in an objective manner, avoiding the pursuit of narrow, selfish interests.

The League of Arab States therefore welcomes the convening of this plenary meeting of the Council. We hope that the solutions and conclusions arrived at will expedite the finding of a solution to the predicament of the Somali people.

We hope that we can do what is necessary to build peace in Somalia, but this cannot be accomplished by good wishes alone. We must be determined to overcome the problems and obstacles of the past and agree to integrate all of our regional and international efforts in order to realize our desired objective.

The League of Arab States has made concerted efforts to bring about peace in Somalia. It has participated in all efforts made at the regional and international levels to find a solution to this question. Our objective has always been the restoration of peace, stability and security in Somalia and national reconciliation among the Somalis, so that they can establish a broad-based government that will assist in rebuilding the country, along with Member States and the League of Arab States, and that will enable it to play its rightful role in the Arab, African and national arenas.

History will show that the Council of the League of Arab States was the first to discuss the situation in Somalia, in September 1991. Its resolution 5097, adopted at that time, was the first decision taken at the regional or international level on the Somali crisis. All Somali factions welcomed that resolution, and international and regional organizations used it as a guideline in addressing the Somali crisis.

The Council of the League of Arab States thus welcomed Security Council resolution 733 (1992) imposing an arms embargo on Somalia. It considered the resolution as a necessary step on the road to the integration of international efforts aimed at finding a solution to the Somali crisis. The League of Arab States affirmed its full readiness to cooperate with the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), among others, to put an end to the crisis in both its humanitarian and political aspects. This was made clear by the League of Arab States' participation, with the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, in all regional and international meetings held on the question of Somalia.

The League of Arab States has also made concrete contributions by supporting Security Council resolutions on Somalia and by providing assistance to both Somali operations. Many member States of the League of Arab States participated in the peacekeeping forces that were sent to Somalia at that time. Moreover, the League of Arab States hosted, at its permanent headquarters in Cairo, a meeting of the heads of Somali clans as well as other meetings that also included representatives of the United Nations, the OAU and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Proof of the importance that the League of Arab States attaches to this question is the fact that the Somali question has been inscribed on the agenda of the Council of the League of Arab States since 1991, thereby ensuring that developments in the conflict are continually monitored by the highest authority in the League.

Ever since the outbreak of the Somali conflict, the Arab countries have featured prominently among those that have provided humanitarian assistance to the Somali people. The aid provided by the Arab States so far totals more than $150 million. The Arab States that participated in the second peacekeeping operation in Somalia focused on the humanitarian aspect of their task, as evidenced by the distribution of food assistance and the provision of top-notch medical services through their field hospitals. These actions won the confidence and admiration of the Somali people.

Moreover, the secretariat of the League of Arab States continued, in 1992 and 1993, to send medical personnel and equipment, and it also provided emergency food assistance to the victims of the 1997 floods in Somalia, in cooperation with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator. Its humanitarian efforts are ongoing; for instance, it provides scholarships to Somali students who are studying at universities and institutions of higher education in the Arab world.

As concerns regional and international initiatives on Somalia, which include the signing of the Sodere and Cairo agreements, the Somali crisis has shown the

need for integrated and consolidated efforts on the part of the international community. The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States therefore recommended the establishment of a regional and international coordinating mechanism that would include all subregional, regional and international organizations as well as other States concerned, with the goal of providing assistance to the Somalis and enabling them to bring about reconciliation, guarantee the implementation of their agreements, avoid potential conflict between regional and international efforts, and bring all Somali actors and clans together to enable them to fulfil their commitments. That mechanism succeeded in realizing its objectives in an effective and meritorious manner.

Among the many initiatives taken on Somalia, the League of Arab States, when it met in Beirut in March of this year, welcomed in particular the initiative of the President of Djibouti, which is aimed at bringing about national reconciliation in Somalia in a comprehensive manner that guarantees the unity and territorial integrity of that country. As an affirmation of the support of the League of Arab States for the initiative, the League participated in the inaugural session of the Somalia National Peace Conference on 2 May of this year. In his opening statement, the head of the League's delegation highlighted the Arab States' support for the Djibouti initiative and called on all of the various actors and factions in Somalia to use this opportunity to bring about national reconciliation.

We believe that Djibouti has exerted considerable efforts and shouldered a heavy burden in order to convene this Conference and ensure its success. The League of Arab States therefore appeals once again to the international community to provide financial assistance to the Government of Djibouti so that it can continue its efforts in the area of reconciliation and so that we can achieve the desired outcome. Needless to say, the secretariat of the League of Arab States has already provided financial assistance to the Government of Djibouti so that it can continue to shoulder the responsibility of holding the Conference.

In conclusion, allow me to outline the elements of what is required of the Council at this very important and critical time and to state what we expect from it at this stage, which, we believe, is in accordance with the key role of the United Nations in the building and maintenance of peace. This is a topic that has recently been discussed by the Council.

First, we affirm the role of the Security Council in supporting and enhancing the peace process in Somalia through the adoption of the initiative of the President of Djibouti. It should urge the international community to support the Somalia National Peace Conference politically and financially and to work to establish a mechanism that would guarantee the implementation of the agreements reached at that Conference, in order for the initiative to be crowned with success. It should also urge the Somali actors that have not yet responded to the initiative to come on board quickly.

Second, the Security Council should enforce its resolution 733 (1992) on the arms embargo on Somalia and reactivate the sanctions committee in order to put in place the mechanisms necessary to halt the arms trade within and to Somalia and to strengthen the embargo.

Third, the Security Council should urge the continuation of coordination between the United Nations and the relevant regional organizations, including the League of Arab States, the OAU, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, in order to support the positive role of these organizations in resolving the question of Somalia.

Fourth, it should work to restore confidence among the Somali parties to the conflict on the one hand, and between these parties and the United Nations on the other, so that the settlement efforts will be successful.

Fifth, it should confirm respect for the unity and territorial integrity of Somaliland, and urge all concerned to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Somalia. Ensuring a permanent peace is, first and foremost, a responsibility to be shouldered by the Somalis themselves. The international community will spare no effort to support them in realizing this objective.

Sixth, the Council should call upon all the parties to the conflict to respect the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law, particularly those relating to the protection of civilians in time of war, and to spare the organizations working in the humanitarian field.

Seventh, it should support the establishment of the trust fund that has been proposed to finance efforts

to achieve peace in Somalia and translate it into action by encouraging a return to social and economic activities in the country in support of peace and stability there.

Eighth, it should appeal to the States and international and regional organizations concerned to provide assistance for demining activities in Somalia.

Ninth, it should give due importance to the question of Somali refugees in neighbouring countries and elsewhere, and urge the international community to provide humanitarian assistance so that the Somali people can overcome their predicament, which is getting worse, in most of the Somali territories.

Tenth, it is important for the Security Council to consider the Somali question periodically so as to follow up developments and facilitate a positive response in this respect.

Since, thanks to the efforts that have been made to resolve the Somali crisis, we finally seem to be able to see light at the end of the tunnel, let us proceed steadily towards the objective for which we have met today, so that the brotherly Somali people may at long last enjoy the life and dignity that they deserve.

The President (*spoke in French*): The next speaker is the representative of Ethiopia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Tessema (Ethiopia): I wish to begin by expressing my delegation's gratitude to you, Mr. President, for convening today's open meeting to review the situation in Somalia. I also wish to thank Under-Secretary-General Sir Kieran Prendergast for his comprehensive report on the situation in Somalia in general, and the ongoing peace process in particular, on which the Council was also briefed in detail this morning by the Permanent Representative of Djibouti.

This open meeting of the Security Council indeed comes at a crucial juncture in the Somali peace process, marked by the Somalia National Peace Conference currently under way in Djibouti. The peace initiative put forward by President Ismail Omar Guelleh of the Republic of Djibouti, which has been endorsed by both the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), seeks to assist the Somalis in achieving national reconciliation that would culminate in the establishment of a central authority.

The Government of Ethiopia has on various occasions expressed its full support for the initiative of President Guelleh, and welcomes the progress made thus far, including in the work of the second phase of the Arta Conference, which began on 15 June. Ethiopia, as an immediate neighbour with a particular interest in peace and stability in Somalia, and as a country with a mandate from both the OAU and IGAD, continues to monitor closely the situation in Somalia and to fully support the ongoing peace efforts.

The tragic situation in Somalia, and especially the developments in the past two years, have clearly demonstrated that the absence of peace and central authority in Somalia not only constitutes a serious threat to the very survival of Somalia as a nation, but also poses a serious challenge to the peace and stability of the Horn of Africa subregion in general and to that of Somalia's immediate neighbours, including Ethiopia, in particular.

It is with this in mind that the seventh summit of heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, held in Djibouti on 26 November 1999, condemned the actions of third parties that, in collaboration with terrorist groups, sought to destabilize the situation in the region, and emphasized that

> "Somalia cannot be allowed to be a haven for all sorts of criminals and terrorist groups that have the intention of making the whole region lawless and outside the rule of law."

In the past few years, efforts have been made by the countries of our region, under the aegis of IGAD, to promote peace and national reconciliation in Somalia. However, these efforts have not yet brought the desired result, mainly because of the lack of commitment on the part of the leaders of Somalia and the failure of external actors to coordinate their peace efforts and initiatives.

The experience gained over the past several years has shown that peace and stability in Somalia will continue to elude us as long as some in the country continue to resist the ideas of local accommodation, power-sharing and a broad-based grass-roots participation in the political life of Somali society. Attempts by some to create a monopoly of power without accommodating others have proved futile, and have undermined the aspiration of the people of Somalia for peace and national reconciliation. This

situation should not be allowed to continue, and the time has now come for the international community to send a clear message to all those concerned that the people of Somalia cannot be held hostage to such narrow and personal interests.

Needless to say, the primary responsibility for peace and national reconciliation in Somalia rests with its own people and leaders. The international community at large, and countries involved in peace efforts in Somalia, in particular, can make an important contribution only if their efforts are undertaken in a coordinated manner. Parallel initiatives should be avoided. The international community, and the United Nations in particular, should continue their support for the ongoing peace process by providing political, financial and material support. To this end, we once again call upon the Security Council to establish a trust fund, as recommended by the United Nations Secretary-General, to support the commendable efforts being made by the Republic of Djibouti.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Ethiopia's continued commitment to the search for durable peace and national reconciliation in Somalia, which is also indispensable for the peace and security of Ethiopia and the entire subregion of the Horn of Africa.

The President (*spoke in French*): The last speaker on my list is the representative of Portugal. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Monteiro (Portugal) (*spoke in French*): I promise to be brief.

(*spoke in English*)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — and the associated countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as well as the European Free Trade Association country member of the European Economic Area, Iceland, align themselves with this statement.

I would like to commend you, Mr. President, and the members of this Council, for organizing this open debate on Somalia. Indeed, I commend you for all the open debates that you have organized, and for allowing other Members of the Organization to participate in them.

I would like very much to thank Under-Secretary-General Prendergast for his informative briefing and the Permanent Representative of Djibouti for his detailed information on the Conference currently being held in Djibouti. Information on the Somali peace process is welcome and long overdue.

The European Union reiterates its support for the Djibouti peace initiative, aimed at achieving peace and stability in Somalia. We welcome the full involvement of civil society. The European Union stresses the need to take into account the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Somalia. In this regard, the European Union hopes that the ongoing Somalia National Peace Conference, which is taking place in Djibouti, will provide a decisive contribution to the restoration of the peace and stability that the Somali people deserve.

We call for the freedom of movement and safety of all United Nations personnel and other humanitarian workers to be guaranteed. In this context, the European Union strongly condemns the attack on a United Nations aircraft in Kismayo airport last month and deplores the killing and intimidation of humanitarian personnel. The insecure situation seriously hampers the delivery of relief assistance to the population in need, namely, internally displaced people.

The European Union is especially concerned with the flow of arms into Somalia in violation of Security Council resolution 733 (1992), which established an arms embargo. It is essential that all States cooperate and provide information on violations of the arms embargo in order to fully implement the Security Council resolution.

The European Union will continue to support the Somali people, providing the necessary assistance. Since 1992, the European Union, through the Humanitarian Office of the European Commission, has been constantly involved in Somalia. During the intervention of the United Nations Operation in Somalia, our assistance amounted to 12 million Euros per year. Over the years, the European Union has focused its attention on those areas where basic preconditions for longer-term and more ambitious development activities do not exist. We have also been a major player in Somalia since 1994, through our financing of large rehabilitation programmes and, until

recently, through our Chairmanship of the Somalia Aid Coordination Body.

The Horn of Africa region is experiencing a humanitarian crisis affecting millions of innocent people. It is now time to call for a strong commitment to the ongoing Somali peace process. The responsibility for achieving genuine national reconciliation and peace rests with the Somalis themselves.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4167

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4167th meeting

Thursday, 29 June 2000, 1.25 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Levitte	(France)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mársico
	Bangladesh	Mr. Ahsan
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Keita
	Namibia	Mr. Liswaniso
	Netherlands	Mr. Scheffers
	Russian Federation	Mr. Victorov
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Herasymenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Bamber
	United States of America	Mr. Stoffer

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-51022 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitments to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, bearing in mind respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia. It reiterates that full responsibility for achieving national reconciliation and peace rests with the Somali people themselves.

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the efforts exerted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to find a political solution to the crisis in Somalia. It welcomes and fully supports the initiative of the President of Djibouti aimed at restoring peace and stability in Somalia and urges States and international organizations, in a position to do so, to give these efforts political support and to provide financial and technical assistance to the Government of Djibouti to this end.

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at the ongoing abuse of human rights and grave deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia, which has led to death, displacement and the outbreak of diseases among the civilian population, particularly children and other vulnerable groups. It expresses appreciation to the efforts of all United Nations agencies, other organizations and individuals carrying out humanitarian activities in Somalia. The Council strongly condemns attacks by armed groups on innocent civilians and all humanitarian personnel. It strongly urges the Somali factions to respect international humanitarian and human rights law, to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of all humanitarian personnel and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian relief to all those in need.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of the widest participation of the representatives of all parts of Somali society in an effort to rehabilitate Somalia. The Council strongly urges representatives of all social and political forces of Somali society to participate actively and in a constructive spirit in the work of the Somali National Peace and Reconciliation Conference in Djibouti. In this regard, it urges the warlords and faction leaders to desist from obstructing and undermining efforts to achieve peace. The Council expresses its readiness to consider taking appropriate steps regarding the warlords and faction leaders who engage in such activities. It also urges all States to stop providing these individuals with the means to carry on their destructive activities.

"The Security Council reminds all States of their obligation to comply with the measures imposed by resolution 733 (1992) and urges them to take all necessary steps to ensure full implementation and enforcement of the arms embargo. The Security Council further urges all States, the United Nations and other international organizations and entities to report to the Committee established by resolution 751 (1992) information on possible violations of the arms embargo.

"The Security Council remains seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2000/22.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4168

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4168th meeting

Wednesday, 5 July 2000, 6 p.m.

New York

President:	Miss Durrant	(Jamaica)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Cappagli
	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Malaysia	Mr. Kamal
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/455)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-51665 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 6.15 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of July, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Ambassador Jean-David Levitte, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council during the month of June. I am sure that I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Levitte for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business during June 2000.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/455)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kamara (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, document S/2000/455.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2000/635 , which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2000/641, letter dated 29 June 2000, from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Kamara (Sierra Leone): My delegation is delighted to see a representative of our sister Commonwealth nation of Jamaica, which has strong historical and cultural links with Sierra Leone, in the presidential Chair of this body. I would like to join others in extending our warmest congratulations to you, Madam President, and to assure you of our cooperation during your term of office.

I would also like to take this opportunity, Madam President, to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Levitte of France, for successfully directing the affairs of the Council during the busy month of June.

Let me also commend other members of the Council for their patience and cooperation in bringing this phase of the Council's preoccupation with the situation in Sierra Leone to a successful end.

In adopting this draft resolution today, the Security Council will, for the first time, go to the root of the conflict in Sierra Leone. We have always maintained that the conflict in Sierra Leone is not about ideology or tribal or regional differences. It has nothing to do with the so-called problem of marginalized youths. Nor is it, as some political commentators have characterized it, an uprising by the rural poor against the urban elite. The root of the conflict is, and remains, diamonds, diamonds, diamonds.

All along, we have been telling the international community that ours is not a civil war, but a rebel war based on brutality, supported by regional, subregional and international surrogates and, more importantly, financed by illicit trade in Sierra Leone's diamonds. At last, the Security Council has come to realize that the war in Sierra Leone is cast in gemstones.

The Security Council has also come to realize that, in addition to encouraging the Government of Sierra Leone to negotiate peace with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, it could have taken effective action to deal with the role of diamonds in the conflict. Now, it is no longer a secret that the first objective of Mr. Foday Sankoh, the RUF and their supporters at home, in the neighbourhood and abroad, has always been to gain access to the nation's diamonds. Their attempt to seize political power by amputations, rape, arson, killings and other terrorist acts is only a means to achieve the second, principal, objective: the complete control over and occupation of the diamond fields of Sierra Leone.

Now the Security Council and the international community know why the rebels reneged on the Lomé Agreement, which they signed one year ago the day after tomorrow — on 7 July 1999, to be precise — and why they continue to illegally occupy the diamond areas of the country in violation of that Agreement.

Last year, my delegation told the Security Council that we supported the idea of naming names in connection with the illegal trade in what have been described as "conflict diamonds". We had already seen the political and moral impact that naming names has had on the situation concerning Angola; we wanted the same for Sierra Leone. At this point in time, naming names should be seen as an expression of serious concern about the role played by the illicit trade in our diamonds in fuelling the conflict. It is a peaceful means of applying political and moral pressure on the principal transit route of such trade to help facilitate an early and peaceful end to the conflict. It is also a reminder that an early end to the conflict is in the interests not only of Sierra Leone but also of all the citizens of the entire West African subregion.

We make no apology for requesting that the Security Council name names. We did so in the name and on behalf of the victims of rebel atrocities, particularly the children whose hands and arms have been deliberately amputated — children whose future has been virtually destroyed by the illicit trade in diamonds. Let me add that those who hold the view that naming names could hurt the feelings of States should also think about the feelings — the physical and emotional pain — of the unfortunate and innocent victims of this conflict over diamonds. We maintain that the illicit export of Sierra Leonean diamonds not only is the root and fuel of the conflict, but also constitutes a major obstacle to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

My delegation is grateful to the Security Council for the decision it is about to take. Although we wish it had come earlier, we regard it as a major contribution to the search for peace and stability in Sierra Leone. We have already seen some positive signs of the impact that this resolution could have on the trade in Sierra Leonean diamonds; we are encouraged by this emerging trend. Of course, much will depend on the political will and cooperation of Member States and the international diamond industry to ensure full implementation of the resolution.

The President: I thank the representative of Sierra Leone for the kind words he addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): My delegation warmly welcomes you to the chair, Madam President, in this your first meeting presiding over the Council. We will work very closely with you during the month of July. You follow the notably effective presidency of France, under the extremely competent leadership of Ambassador Levitte, to whom we are also very grateful, in particular for helping us to take forward the work on this draft resolution.

Diamonds are at the heart of the tragedy of Sierra Leone. A precious resource, which should be a source of wealth for national development, has become a cause of human suffering on a terrible scale, and the Ambassador of Sierra Leone has very eloquently pointed that out. The draft resolution we are voting on is a robust and imaginative response by the Security Council to that tragedy. The Council has shown itself ready to take a strong lead in addressing this problem and to have learned lessons from previous experience, especially Ambassador Fowler's excellent work on Angola.

Building partly on his experience, this draft resolution will send a powerful signal about the need to

end the trade in conflict diamonds from Sierra Leone. It includes a number of practical and, indeed, ground-breaking measures to achieve that aim. One of those is the exploratory hearing of the sanctions Committee, which we hope will be held within the next month. This offers a real opportunity to shine a powerful light on an illicit trade which prefers to operate in the shadows. The United Kingdom is ready to offer all possible assistance to Ambassador Chowdhury, as Chairman of the sanctions Committee, in order to make this hearing a success.

The draft resolution will also provide for a panel of experts to look at violations of the arms embargo and the link between diamonds and arms — a very important step and a clear signal that the international community will no longer tolerate sanctions-busting, particularly in circumstances like these.

The role of the international diamond industry will also be crucial. The draft resolution is unusual in its direct appeal to the diamond trade. Many in the industry have already shown great responsibility in responding to the problem of conflict diamonds, including from Sierra Leone. We look to all parts of the industry to do likewise and to fully commit themselves to ending this cynical commerce.

The role of Sierra Leone's neighbours is equally critical. Action elsewhere will be meaningless if illicit Sierra Leone diamonds still flood out of the country, over its borders. This resolution makes clear where the Council's concerns lie. The widely held view that the bulk of Sierra Leone diamonds at present flow out of the country via the RUF through Liberia is well founded. This resolution will now impose international obligations on all Governments to put a stop to this illicit trade. So we now look to the Governments in the region most closely involved to share a strong commitment to peace in Sierra Leone and to act now to cut off this trade. Their long-term interests will undoubtedly be served, in terms of the region's security and its future prosperity, if they take this approach.

We are taking these steps and considering other important measures to follow in the search for peace and a normal life for the people of Sierra Leone. The aim of this draft resolution is to ensure eventually and at long last that diamonds bring benefit and not misery to that long-suffering population, and in particular, that diamonds are not used to pay for arms to undermine the legitimate authority and attack either innocent civilians or United Nations peacekeeping forces.

This is a creditable move by the Council upon which we must build further.

The President: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his kind words addressed to me.

Ms. Soderberg (United States): Thank you very much, Madam President. It is a special pleasure to say "Madam President", which does not happen very often. Thank you very much for today's meeting.

Sierra Leone has weighed heavily on the world's conscience for the past two years. We have all watched in horror as the civilian population endured unimaginable suffering and hardship. The brutal tactics of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of indiscriminately cutting off the limbs of hundreds of men, women and children have shocked us all. We have a responsibility to help the people of Sierra Leone return to the quiet, peaceful and productive lives they all deserve.

Today the Council takes an important step forward toward that goal. In banning the sale of illicit diamonds, we take a strong stand against war and for peace. Diamonds and their illicit procurement and sale by the RUF rebels fuel the conflict in Sierra Leone. The rebels have used the sale of diamonds to fund their operations and to procure weapons, as well as to enrich their leaders.

I commend the leadership of Sir Jeremy Greenstock and the United Kingdom in putting forward this draft resolution. The United States, Canada and others have also been in the forefront of the efforts to find ways to prevent the illicit transfer of diamonds from fuelling conflicts, particularly in Africa.

The illicit trade in diamonds is closely linked to illicit trade in small arms. We remind all States of existing sanctions on arm shipments to the RUF. We believe the resolution is a necessary and critical step to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in re-establishing authority over its diamond-producing regions. Efforts are already under way to help the Government of Sierra Leone establish a certification system. We are working in cooperation with the United Kingdom and others to support this endeavour.

We will vote to adopt this resolution, but we do so with reservations on the time-frame. We are

concerned about the negative implications of putting in place time-limited sanctions. Sanctions are difficult for Member States to impose within their own national legal systems. They become more difficult to implement if turned off and on.

We believe the diamond boycott should stay in place until the control of the Government of Sierra Leone over the diamond regions has been fully established. We favour the establishment of benchmark criteria to be met before sanctions can be lifted. This draft resolution links the removal of sanctions to the arbitrary passage of time, rather than to fair and reasonable compliance with requirements established by the Council. We do not agree with time limits, but we have accepted the consensus view of other Council members on this issue, given the critical importance of imposing sanctions to end the illicit trade in diamonds for arms carried on by the RUF.

The United States strongly believes its sanctions, to have meaning and force, must be tied to a change in the behaviour that prompts imposition of the sanctions in the first place, not to an arbitrary date on the calendar. In this case the change in behaviour is the end of the RUF's use of diamonds to fuel its war machine and human rights abuses, and the full control of the Government over its resources. The use of time limits in this resolution or in any others undermines the incentive for sanctioned States or entities to comply with the demands of the Security Council, unhelpfully encouraging them to believe that if they can simply outlast the patience of the Council or somehow divide its members, sanctions will be lifted without compliance or will simply expire.

It is up to the Council to review, consider and modify its own sanctions. This resolution calls for an 18-month period of sanctions. Eighteen months is an arbitrary political compromise; it has no basis in fact or anything related to the situation on the ground in Sierra Leone. In the end, time limits provide comfort only to those under sanctions and to those who, contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, believe that sanctions are not an appropriate tool of Security Council policy.

We should target sanctions to protect civilian populations, but not to give rogues and criminals time off for bad behaviour when sanctions run out. By placing time limits on Sierra Leone's sanctions we are undermining the effectiveness of this important resolution and damaging the Council's ability to impose credible sanctions in the future.

The only permissible criteria for ending sanctions must be compliance with Security Council resolutions. Otherwise, the security of the Council is undermined. If there had been time limits on the Libyan sanctions, for instance, the suspects would never have been handed over to the Scottish court in the Netherlands.

Finally, let me underscore the importance of the step the Council takes today. It places the Security Council firmly on the side of peace in Sierra Leone. We will vote for this resolution, and we urge those who continue to thwart peace in Sierra Leone to take due notice.

The President: I thank the representative of the United States for her kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Ouane (Mali) (*spoke in French*): The Security Council is to going to take a decision on a matter of particular importance to Mali. As is known, Mali is presiding over the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Today's vote comes after the important meeting of the Security Council with the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council Committee on Sierra Leone, held in this same chamber on 21 June.

The Security Council is going to take an important decision on Sierra Leone following liberation, thanks to the efforts of ECOWAS, one of whose member States is called into question in the draft resolution before us. How can we not also think now of the many — and I am thinking of the 222 soldiers and 11 military observers — still surrounded? The Security Council will decide today about Sierra Leone, even while a joint high-level meeting between ECOWAS and the United Nations Secretariat is scheduled at Lomé on 10 July, in a few days, to be followed by an operational meeting, both focusing on the situation in Sierra Leone.

Mali has often recalled that the main concern of ECOWAS is the revival of the peace process in Sierra Leone. In this context, the Security Council meeting with the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council Committee on 21 June provided a useful opportunity to hold a candid and constructive dialogue, during which the ECOWAS eight-point action plan for Sierra Leone was abundantly explained. This plan has been circulated to all the members of the Council and to all

members of the United Nations as well. It contains a number of points covered in the draft resolution, in particular the matter of diamonds. The declaration made by the Security Council and ECOWAS after the meeting very aptly underscored that the meeting had been held in a spirit of genuine partnership, which the participants decided to pursue and strengthen in the future.

The draft resolution we have before us, however, does not seem to be part of this dynamic, since it does not sufficiently take into consideration the concerns expressed by my delegation. The draft openly accuses a member of ECOWAS, the President of which played a constructive role, with other ECOWAS leaders, in the peace process in Sierra Leone. We are concerned about the repercussions on the peace process of the finger-pointing at Liberia.

This reference is unacceptable to ECOWAS. We feel it is not timely while the ECOWAS enquiry into the diamond trade is not yet completed. This is why my delegation will not be able to support the text as now before us.

Starting right now, we must think about the future — in other words, what comes after the resolution. In particular, we must think about the way in which we can protect President Taylor's constructive commitment with regard to the peace process. We must also reflect on the way in which we might help ECOWAS to play a more effective role in the solution to the crisis in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) *(spoke in Russian)*: Russia attaches great importance to the draft resolution that we are about to adopt today. It is likely to become an important element in international efforts to settle the conflict in Sierra Leone. This document puts barriers in the way of the criminal diamond trade of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which is fuelling a continuation of the conflict. The resolution sends a clear and unambiguous signal to the participants in this business from other countries on the unacceptability of the situation that has arisen for the international community.

We believe it is extremely important that the measures provided for in the draft resolution in this area should not be detrimental to the interests of legitimate participants in the international diamond market. The resolution also provides for tightening control over the observation of the embargo on military supplies to Sierra Leone imposed earlier. We hope that the tightening of this control will play an important role in stabilizing the situation in that country.

It is of fundamental importance that the duration of the sanctions regime, in relation to the illegitimate export of diamonds from Sierra Leone, is limited to 18 months from the time of adoption of the draft resolution. After that time, the Council will once again review the situation in Sierra Leone and, if necessary, will take decisions as to whether the sanctions should be extended, whether they should be adjusted or whether supplementary measures should be taken. In this way, with the adoption of this resolution, a further step will be taken towards making the mechanism of the imposition of sanctions more effective and equitable, including a further confirmation in practice of the principle of time limitations on the imposition of sanctions.

On this basis, Russia will vote for this draft resolution.

Mr. Cappagli (Argentina) *(spoke in Spanish)*: At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your assumption of the presidency, and I would like to wish you the greatest success. You can count on our full cooperation. I would also like to express our gratitude and extend our warm regards to Ambassador Levitte and his entire team for the excellent manner in which they conducted our work last month. Also, I would like to thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for having introduced this draft resolution and for the leadership displayed in the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone.

Argentina fully supports this draft resolution. It is not designed to punish the Government of Sierra Leone. On the contrary, it is directed against the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and is a clear-cut measure to safeguard the legitimate interests of the people of Sierra Leone. Setting up a fully operational certificate of origin régime for Sierra Leone diamonds is consonant with this purpose and with the ultimate objective of bringing about a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone.

Therefore, Argentina trusts that this draft resolution will help to achieve a two-fold purpose. On the one hand, it will protect the legitimate resources of the people of Sierra Leone; on the other, it will prevent a situation in which resources generated by illegal

traffic in Sierra Leone diamonds continues to fuel the armed conflict in that country.

We appeal for the contents of this resolution to be fully implemented, as well as paragraph 2 of resolution 1132 (1997) on the arms embargo and travel restrictions. It is only through concerted efforts within the international community, including the neighbouring countries in particular, that it will be possible to break the illegal traffic in arms and diamonds — the damaging impact of which is familiar to all of us — throughout the region.

We appeal to the Government of Sierra Leone to set up as soon as possible a certificate of origin régime for Sierra Leone diamonds that will be fully operational and effective. We are convinced that countries with long experience in this field will provide the necessary assistance to this end.

Argentina supports the principle of clear limitations on sanctions régimes and the need for periodic review of sanctions régimes. This is why we are particularly satisfied to see both principles enshrined in this text. However, in this particular case, where the prescriptive measures were expressly requested by the Government of Sierra Leone and target a rebel movement notorious for its unusual cruelty against the civilian population, we would have preferred the initial period to be rather longer, since this, in our opinion, would have made the regime more functional and effective.

The President: I thank the representative of Argentina for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Shen Guofang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation is deeply concerned about the negative role played by the illicit diamond trade in the civil war in Sierra Leone.

We believe that the international community must take strong measures to stop the illicit exploitation of and trade in diamonds, to put an end to the rebellion of the Revolutionary United Front and to protect the legitimate Government elected by the people of that country. Only in this way will we find a lasting solution to the problems of Sierra Leone, which is the unshirkable responsibility of the Security Council.

We believe that the draft resolution to be adopted by the Security Council will constitute a very important step in that direction. We note that, in its letter addressed to the Council, the Government of Sierra Leone indicates its acceptance of the sanctions imposed on it. We hope that, through this measure, the international community can help to restore peace in Sierra Leone as soon as possible.

At the same time, my delegation believes that any sanctions imposed by the Council should not be indefinite. A periodic review of such measures should be conducted and adjustments made as the situation warrants. We are satisfied with the element of time-bound sanctions contained in the text of the draft resolution.

The President: I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2000/635.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Mali

The President: The result of the voting is as follows: 14 votes in favour, none against and 1 abstention. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 1306 (2000).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Fowler (Canada) (*spoke in French*): We should like to thank the delegation of the United Kingdom, and Ambassador Greenstock in particular, for their tireless work in preparing the resolution we have just adopted. It is a constructive expression of the Security Council's dedication to peace and stability in Sierra Leone. We believe that the measures imposed by the resolution will make it possible to shed light on and discourage the trade in illicitly mined diamonds in that country, which is one of the basic causes of the war there.

As we have mentioned in the past, the natural wealth of Sierra Leone must be used for the benefit of the entire population, as prescribed by the Lomé Peace

Agreement, if we are to put an end to the horrendous conflict in that country. Recent violations of the Lomé Agreement have compelled the Council clearly to declare its position on that principle.

(*spoke in English*)

Canada believes that curbing the trade in rebel diamonds from Sierra Leone requires concerted action at the source, within the region and within the market. We welcome the balanced approach of this resolution, which targets illicit Sierra Leone diamonds through a certification regime, while also recalling the responsibility of the diamond industry to be vigilant in its processes and in its practices.

We look forward to the conclusions of the exploratory hearing and to the findings of the panel of experts created by this resolution, which we hope will shed light on the link between the trade in diamonds and the supply of arms to rebel groups in Sierra Leone.

Our principal concern must be to ensure that these positive measures are not undermined from the outset. In this regard, Canada believes that the Council may need to take further action to tackle the regional sources of support for the abhorrent actions of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the group most clearly responsible for Sierra Leone's suffering in recent years. The complicity of certain West African States in exporting illicit diamonds from Sierra Leone and in supplying the RUF with arms, in violation of Council measures, must be faced squarely. The role of Liberia merits particular attention in this regard, but it is not alone and our actions in addressing Liberia's conduct candidly and resolutely, as the European Union has done through its suspension of assistance to Liberia, will determine whether other parties in the region are deterred or emboldened.

When the panel of experts created in this resolution reports its findings, the Council will need to examine carefully whether States, such as Liberia, have ceased their involvement in the illicit diamond trade and whether additional measures might be required to enforce the embargo on arms transfers to the RUF.

The Council has signalled its sustained engagement in this process by expressing its willingness to consider a range of options to ensure compliance with this resolution, including involving the Liberia and Angola sanctions Committees in enforcement efforts. Canada will support these efforts and will press for candour at every turn. We must undertake, as Ambassador Kamara has just said so forcefully, to name and shame those who sustain this war, which, over the past eight years, has violated every standard of humanity.

The United Nations credibility with regard to Sierra Leone is at stake in this resolution. Certain States may well choose to test the resolve of the Council with respect to this resolution. As a country that has worked to ensure that practical, effective and credible action on sanctions becomes part of our collective ethic, Canada believes that the Council must be prepared to build steadfastly on today's undertakings and to take clear-eyed further steps if our efforts at gaining full compliance are to be sustained and are to be effective.

This resolution is an important step in the right direction and will provide a solid basis for further action in addressing the roots of the shameful conflict in Sierra Leone and in bringing the suffering of its people to an end.

Mr. Van Walsum (Netherlands): It is no secret that the Security Council has had to spend considerable time in informal consultations before this resolution could be adopted. It would, however, be unfortunate if this should give rise to the assumption, in West Africa or anywhere else, that there was disagreement within the Council on the fundamental objective of this resolution. When the Council is seen to need a great deal of time to come to an agreement, it is normally caused by divergence of views as to who is to blame in a given conflict. This is not what has caused the delay in this case.

The two issues which first needed to be resolved were of a totally different nature. The first problem concerned the initial duration and subsequent extension of the measures. Our debate on this matter reflected the general unease about the phenomenon of sanctions that last much longer than originally intended and then stay in place only because there is no effective majority in favour of their abolition. My delegation appreciates this unease and is strongly in favour of periodic review, but we continue to be opposed to time limits that lead to an automatic discontinuation of sanctions in the absence of a resolution leading to their extension.

The second problem concerned the traditional reluctance prevalent in certain quarters, if not in certain continents, to call a spade a spade. This is not really a

disagreement; it is a cultural difference that international society has to live with.

The debate on these two issues should not be allowed to offer any relief to those who exploit the diamond trade to fuel the conflict in Sierra Leone. My delegation welcomes the resolve of the Security Council to deprive the Revolutionary United Front of its means to wage a cruel war against the people of Sierra Leone.

The President: The Security Council has completed its voting procedure.

Mr. Levitte (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Madam President, for your very generous words addressed to me. I would like to express the warmest and most confident wishes for the complete success of our work under your elegant and able guidance.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia — as well as Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, which are also associated countries, align themselves with this statement.

I would like to express the European Union's support for the resolution on the situation in Sierra Leone that was skilfully and determinedly prepared by the United Kingdom, and for the strengthening of existing sanctions and the establishment of an embargo on rough diamonds illicitly exported from Sierra Leone. The adoption of this resolution is a first step, and shows that the international community intends to react in the firmest possible way to the events that have taken place in Sierra Leone since the beginning of May.

The European Union also hopes that the Security Council will, on the one hand, be able to decide swiftly and positively on increasing the staff of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) as proposed in the Secretary-General's last report and, on the other hand, examine the assistance that might be given to the Government of Sierra Leone to bring to trial Mr. Foday Sankoh and other persons responsible for violations of the Lomé Peace Agreement.

The European Union vigorously condemns the actions of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), in particular the attacks and hostile actions committed against UNAMSIL. It calls upon the RUF immediately and unconditionally to respect the commitments it has made and to begin the process of demobilization and disarmament provided for under the Lomé Agreement. The European Union underscores the personal responsibility of Mr. Foday Sankoh in the course of recent events, by virtue of which he can no longer be considered one of the partners in the peace process under any circumstances.

The European Union considers the measures proposed in the resolution as being particularly timely for various reasons.

First, the measures aim to put an end to the illicit exploitation of diamonds in Sierra Leone by the Revolutionary United Front, an exploitation that is substantially contributing to financing that movement's war effort and impoverishing the people of Sierra Leone as a whole. The European Union is convinced that the establishment of a lasting peace in Sierra Leone requires drying up the RUF's financial resources.

Secondly, these measures have been the subject of close consultation with the Government of Sierra Leone. They show a concern for cooperation with those economically involved in the diamond trade. The setting up of an effective system of certificates of origin for diamonds produced in Sierra Leone may ultimately complete the efforts already undertaken by the Security Council in other African countries, in particular in Angola. This will give complete legality to the diamond trade and should contribute to peace and development in Africa and other regions of the world.

Thirdly and lastly, these measures will strengthen the existing embargo on arms. On several occasions, the European Union has had opportunity to express its concern over violations of Security Council resolution 1171 (1998). The Secretary-General's proposal to set up a group of experts responsible for collecting information on violations of that embargo and examining the links between the diamond trade and the arms trade meets with the particular support of the European Union. The European Union calls on all countries concerned, and primarily on the countries neighbouring Sierra Leone, to show exemplary cooperation with that group of experts.

The European Union is pleased to welcome all measures taken to strengthen the role of the sanctions

Committee set up under resolution 1132 (1998). The holding of a preliminary hearing by the sanctions Committee between now and the end of the month to assess the role of diamonds in the conflict in Sierra Leone, and the links between the trade in Sierra Leone diamonds and the arms trade, represents an important decision. We hope that the holding of such a hearing involving both governmental and non-governmental experts may serve as a precedent for the work of other committees.

The European Union also notes that the resolution establishes an embargo regime on diamonds for an initial period of 18 months and provides for bi-annual reviews of the implementation of the embargo. The European Union takes note of the commitment made by the Security Council to carry out an in-depth review of the situation at the end of the 18-month period so as to take a fresh decision, if necessary, to either extend the measures taken and adjust them if need be, or to adopt new measures in the light of the Government's authority over diamond-producing areas. The European Union believes that all these measures are aimed at supporting the efforts of the authorities in Sierra Leone in order to enable them to take back the control over resources that have slipped through their fingers. They also reflect the concern of the Security Council to ensure that the measures it adopts are effectively followed up with actions.

Finally, the European Union is satisfied with the close coordination between the Security Council and the member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with regard to the situation in Sierra Leone. As Ambassador Moctar Ouane emphasized, the meeting held last month between the Security Council and the ministerial delegation of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council Committee of Six on Sierra Leone is evidence of this indispensable closeness.

The European Union would like to recall that the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone will be possible only with the active support of the countries of the region. Conversely, the persistence of chronic insecurity in Sierra Leone would be a handicap to subregional development and would fuel the destabilization of neighbouring countries.

The President: I thank Ambassador Levitte for his kind words addressed to me.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 7.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4169

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4169th meeting

Thursday, 13 July 2000, 11.45 a.m.

New York

President:	Miss Durrant	(Jamaica)
Members:	Argentina	Ms. Moglia
	Bangladesh	Mr. Ahmed
	Canada	Mr. Angell
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ag Oumar
	Namibia	Mr. Uanivi
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Tunisia	Mr. Cherif
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Cunningham

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-53032 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.45 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Sacirbey (Bosnia and Herzegovina) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council in commemoration of the tragic events at Srebrenica.

"Five years after the fall of Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Security Council pays tribute to the victims of one of the worst civilian massacres in Europe since the end of the Second World War. In the week after the fall of Srebrenica, a United Nations designated safe area, thousands of innocent civilians were murdered and thousands of others forcibly relocated as a result of the policy of ethnic cleansing.

"The tragic events at Srebrenica must not be forgotten. The Council regrets the deplorable events and recalls its resolve to ensure that justice is carried out fully through the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and that such crimes are not repeated in the future. The Council stresses the importance that lessons be learned and acknowledges the Secretary-General's report on Srebrenica, contained in document A/54/549. The Council reiterates its commitment to the full implementation of the Dayton Paris Peace Accord and to the establishment of multi-ethnic democracy and the rule of law throughout the territory of the former Yugoslavia."

I now invite the members of the Council to stand and observe a minute of silence in honour of the victims of the Srebrenica massacre.

The members of the Council observed a minute of silence.

The statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2000/23. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.4170

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4170th meeting

Thursday, 13 July 2000, 11.55 a.m.

New York

President:	Miss Durrant	(Jamaica)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Listre
	Bangladesh	Mr. Ahmed
	Canada	Mr. Angell
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ag Oumar
	Namibia	Mr. Uanivi
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Tunisia	Mr. Cherif
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Cunningham

Agenda

The situation in Croatia

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (S/2000/647).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-53056 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.55 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Croatia

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (S/2000/647)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka, document S/2000/647. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2000/681, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1307 (2000).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.

United Nations S/PV.4171

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4171st meeting

Thursday, 13 July 2000, 12 noon.

New York

President:	Miss Durrant	(Jamaica)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Listre
	Bangladesh	Mr. Ahmed
	Canada	Mr. Angell
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ag Oumar
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Cunningham

Agenda

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-53068 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Annabi to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations. I am pleased to give him the floor.

Mr. Annabi: Since the last briefing provided to the Security Council by Mr. Bernard Kouchner, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, on 9 June, last month, the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) have focused on several key areas. At the forefront of the Mission's agenda has been the ongoing effort to improve security throughout Kosovo. Special measures have been taken to enhance and improve security throughout Kosovo. Special measures have been taken to enhance security for minority communities, and UNMIK considers that the situation is showing some signs of stabilization.

UNMIK also continues to concentrate on the advancement of the Joint Interim Administrative Structures process and on ensuring maximum involvement in that process by all political groups. Significant progress was achieved here with the return of the Kosovo Serbs in the Interim Administrative Council, the IAC, at the end of June. However, this success has been tempered by the current suspension of participation of the Democratic Party of Kosovo, the PDK, in the same body.

Finally, preparations for elections have continued. In general, registration results have been encouraging, but the Kosovo Serb community and much of the Kosovo Turkish population are not participating.

I will now touch on the various aspects of the situation. I apologize in advance for what will be a somewhat lengthy briefing, but there have been a number of significant developments over the last month.

I will first touch on the political situation.

In the face of escalating violence in late May and early June, the Serb National Council of Gracanica (SNC-G) temporarily suspended its participation in the IAC and the Kosovo Transitional Council (KTC). The suspension was lifted on 25 June when the SNC-G voted to resume participation in the Joint Interim Administration structures institutions for an additional three months. The decision came in the wake of a number of concerted steps on the part of the international community to encourage the SNC-G to resume its participation.

As part of the agreement concluded with the SNC-G to resume its participation, on 29 June Bishop Artemije and Special Representative Kouchner signed a joint understanding that outlined steps to be taken in order to further improve the security and living conditions of the Kosovo Serb population. In reaction, the Kosovo Albanian community expressed fears that the implementation of that joint understanding might lead to a delegation of security powers by UNMIK to the Kosovo Serb population. Citing similar concerns, Mr. Thaci decided to freeze his participation in the IAC, and that of his party, PDK, in the KTC.

The meetings of the IAC and of the KTC at the end of May and at the beginning of June focused heavily on the upsurge of violence against Kosovo Serbs. But both the IAC and the KTC issued statements condemning in the strongest possible terms what in many cases appears to be systematic violence against members of minority communities. The three Kosovo Albanian members of the IAC — Mr. Thaci, Mr. Rugova and Mr. Qosja — also issued separate statements supporting ethnic tolerance. In addition, the Special Representative, together with the Kosovo Albanian political leaders, visited the sites of two

egregious attacks against Kosovo Serbs in order to publicly condemn all ethnically motivated violence. The day after, the discussions of the IAC and the KTC focused on the debate over the design of the electoral system to be used in the proposed municipal elections.

On 8 July, the Special Representative signed the regulation on the conduct of the municipal elections, which accepted the central election commission's recommendations for a proportional system of voting with open lists of candidates. This was opposed by Mr. Thaci's PDK party.

On 11 July, the IAC endorsed a draft regulation on the structure and functions of municipal administrations throughout Kosovo. The draft regulation establishes provincial institutions for democratic and autonomous self-government at the municipal level and is, in UNMIK's view, an important step in the progressive transfer of administrative responsibilities from UNMIK to the local authorities. The endorsement by the IAC of this draft regulation came in the absence of Mr. Thaci, who has indicated that he does not support it. In addition, Mr. Qosja opposed the draft provision establishing local community offices.

Despite the recent violence and the general refusal on the part of the Kosovo Serb community to engage in the civil registration process, Kosovo Serb representatives in some municipalities have begun to participate in recent municipal board meetings. For example, board meetings in Vitina and Novo Brdo, in the region of Gnjilane, have been attended by Kosovo Serb representatives since the end of last month. However, in the mixed municipalities of the Pristina region Serb representatives continue to refuse to participate in the deliberations of the municipal councils.

Turning to the security situation, the first two weeks of June witnessed an increase in the frequency of ethnically motivated attacks, primarily targeting Kosovo Serbs. Between 31 May and 15 June, a total of 6 Kosovo Serbs were murdered and 10 injured in a series of attacks. During the second week of this month, there were also four grenade attacks against members of the Kosovo Roma community. These attacks, which took place at Stimlje, in the region of Prizren, and in Mitrovica, left four Roma injured, including, regrettably, two children.

UNMIK reports that the number of threats against non-Serb families residing in northern Mitrovica is on the rise. UNMIK continues to conduct home visits to isolated Kosovo Albanian and Slav Muslim families to identify needs for humanitarian aid, medical services and security. Minority communities in urban Pristina and north of the city also continue to report lack of freedom of movement and access to essential services.

Beginning in the third week of June, Kosovo saw several incidents of violence and unrest within Kosovo Serb communities. One such incident took place in northern Mitrovica on 21 June following the arrest by UNMIK police of a Kosovo Serb suspected of stoning a garbage collection truck driven by a Kosovo Albanian. A crowd quickly formed and became violent following the arrest, and 11 Kosovo Serbs and 8 UNMIK police officers were injured in the ensuing fray. Seven vehicles belonging to UNMIK and four belonging to non-governmental organizations were damaged or destroyed. In the wake of the incident, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) temporarily suspended most of its humanitarian activities in northern Mitrovica.

On 23 June, another violent incident took place in Strpce, in the region of Gnjilane, following the disappearance of a Kosovo Serb. A well-organized group of Kosovo Serbs ransacked and vandalized the UNMIK municipal building in Strpce, targeting the offices of international employees. The body of the missing local Serb was later discovered, revealing that he had been murdered.

In response to this incident and other violent protests in which the lives of Kosovo Force (KFOR) soldiers were endangered, KFOR's Multinational East Brigade suspended protection for convoys entering and leaving the town on 3 July. However, the suspension was lifted three days later following the arrest of a local Kosovo Serb charged with leading the crowd in the 23 June incident, as well as the issuance of an announcement by the local community leaders declaring their readiness to cooperate with KFOR and UNMIK in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999).

On 5 July explosions were reported in the Kosovo Serb village of Velica Hoca, again in the region of Prizren. Following those explosions, violent protests erupted in which two United Nations vehicles were destroyed. Members of the Serb community barricaded the main road leading into the village. When UNMIK

police and KFOR arrived to investigate, local Kosovo Serbs put their children on top of the barricades to prevent KFOR and UNMIK police from proceeding. The blockade was eventually dismantled and the crowd dispersed.

A KFOR weapons search, which began on 15 June, resulted in the discovery of two concrete bunkers filled with a large number of weapons, as well as a training site close by, near Klecka village in the central Drenica valley. Another cache of weapons was discovered on 18 June. One of the bunkers showed signs of having been recently accessed. The weapons discovered included a large number of grenades, mortars, small arms, ammunition and other explosives. According to documents found at the site of the cache, the weapons belonged to the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Mr. Ceku, the Commander of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), has denied all knowledge of the weapons caches and stated that it was "good for Kosovo" that the caches had been discovered. An investigation into the incident is under way.

In the early morning of 7 July, a violent altercation occurred in the town of Streoc, in the Pec region, involving Ramush Haradinaj, a former KLA commander and founder of the new political party known as the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo, several members of the Kosovo Protection Corps, Sedik Musaj, formerly associated with the Armed Forces of Kosovo (FARC) and now aligned with the Democratic League of Kosovo, and possibly other individuals. Having been wounded in the incident, Mr. Haradinaj sought medical assistance some hours later from KFOR and was subsequently transported to the United States hospital at Camp Bondsteel. It was determined that his injuries could not be treated in theatre, and he was evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre in Germany. UNMIK police is conducting a full investigation with the support of KFOR. Owing to his medical condition, Mr. Haradinaj has yet to be interviewed by police investigators, and UNMIK investigators will travel to Germany to conduct the interview as soon as it is feasible.

The incident has received extensive coverage in the local and international press, with widely varying speculation being put forth regarding the possible circumstances of this incident. UNMIK has cautioned all concerned not to prejudge the ongoing extensive police investigation. An international prosecutor and an international investigating judge will be assigned to handle the case.

I should like now to touch on the measures that have been put in place by UNMIK to improve security. In response to last month's violence, UNMIK and KFOR have continued to explore all possible avenues for improving the security of minorities and increasing their access to municipal services.

In Gnjilane, UNMIK has been working with KFOR to assist Kosovo Serbs during the harvesting period by enhancing security and enabling farmers to purchase fuel, to which they have had limited access. In that same region, speed-deterrent obstacles, which are designed to prevent drive-by shootings, have been introduced in Kosovo Serb villages and in mixed villages. In northern Mitrovica, where low-level harassment of Kosovo Albanians and Bosniacs continues, the design and implementation of UNMIK police and KFOR joint security operations has continued to be refined. A total of 13 local community officers, whose role is to facilitate the access of Kosovo minority groups to a full range of municipal services, have been deployed to this region.

In line with the joint understanding signed between the Special Representative and Bishop Artemije, UNMIK police has concentrated in recent weeks on developing a special security task force which is designing additional measures to combat ethnically targeted violence. Its first priority is to address the threat facing the Kosovo Serb community. This task force is working in close cooperation with KFOR to plan measures to enhance the application of joint security operations.

Emphasis is being placed on building what is called a partnership for security at the local community and neighbourhood level. UNMIK police will assist in educating the local population about crime prevention and general security practices and will strengthen information-sharing and cooperation at the local level. This task force will also develop recommendations for preventive investigation and law-enforcement measures, taking into account available UNMIK police and KFOR resources.

Measures were also enacted by the Special Representative to curb the threat posed by irresponsible behaviour on the part of the local media, such as the publication of inflammatory articles that might endanger the lives of individuals. Two regulations

designed to govern the licensing and regulation of both broadcast and print media have been promulgated by Mr. Kouchner. The regulations include a code of conduct and provide for sanctions for violations of the regulations or of the code as well as an appeal process. The regulation governing print media has already been used against *Dita*, following that daily newspaper's publication of the names of Kosovo Serbs whom it accused of war crimes.

As regards relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, UNMIK has proposed the establishment of a Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) in order to facilitate dialogue on practical problems of mutual concern with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The terms of reference of this Joint Consultative Committee are now under intensive discussions between UNMIK and the Committee for Cooperation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Pristina. UNMIK believes that the putting in place of the Joint Consultative Committee will be of considerable importance, and it plans to focus its consultations initially within that Committee on concrete issues of immediate relevance to both sides, such as transport, communications, postal services, trade, finance, education and travel. UNMIK is hopeful that this Joint Consultative Committee will be able to commence activities shortly.

As regards the situation in southern Serbia, there have been reports in the last few weeks of an increased Serbian police presence throughout the ground security zone, and on 21 June 13 families totalling 103 people left Ternovci Vogel and crossed into Kosovo. These newly displaced persons indicated that their flight was prompted by a fear of reprisals after two elderly Serb residents in their village were killed by unknown assailants. Although this displacement was less dramatic than the internally displaced flows experienced in February and early March, it does indicate that the situation in southern Serbia remains fluid.

I should now like to turn to the election preparations and to the registration process. The civil registration process is now coming to a close, and UNMIK reports that significant progress has been made in the effort to register the population. As of the end of last week, as of 7 July, 893,281 applications had been received. Of these, 100,912 have been reviewed, and UNMIK has been able to substantiate close to one third of these cases. The total number of names placed on the civil registry now stands at 812,644.

The campaign to register "habitual residents" of Kosovo who are currently living abroad has also met with marked success. The total number of approved applications submitted outside Kosovo now stands at 55,352, with an additional 44,824 cases still under review.

Despite the active participation of the Kosovo Albanian population in the registration process, the Kosovo Serb community and much of the Kosovo Turkish community are continuing to boycott the process. In the latest of many efforts made by UNMIK, the Institution Building Pillar of UNMIK organized a major meeting on 7 July in Leposavic with 42 Kosovo Serb leaders from all over the province to discuss the civil registration process and the upcoming elections. All of the Kosovo Serb representatives present at that meeting, including those of the SNC-Gracanica, the SNC-Mitrovica and the Serb National Assembly, agreed that Kosovo Serbs should not register until such time as significant progress has been made with respect to security and the return of Kosovo Serbs to their homes in Kosovo.

For their part, most Kosovo Turk leaders have preconditioned their support for the registration process on a guarantee by UNMIK to reinstate the rights of their community as set forth in the 1974 federal constitution. Intensive efforts have been made by UNMIK to find a compromise solution to this particular issue, but with little success so far. UNMIK has proposed a series of measures, many of which go beyond the guarantees found in international instruments such as the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities adopted by the United nations General Assembly. These measures included the use of the Turkish language on future identification cards and the translation of all UMNIK regulations into Turkish. UNMIK is making a special effort in areas where Kosovo Turks live to keep registration centres open for longer hours until the end of the registration process.

On 8 July the Special Representative signed into force Regulation 2000/39 on the municipal elections in Kosovo. This Regulation establishes the basic provisions governing the conduct of the upcoming

municipal elections. Under the Regulation, the Special Representative is given the authority to determine the date for Kosovo's municipal elections, after consultation with the Secretary-General. The first municipal officers elected through these municipal elections will serve two-year terms. Another important element aimed at ensuring at even representation of all segments of Kosovo society is a provision that at least every third candidate be a woman.

I now turn briefly to humanitarian issues. Since the beginning of June more than 11,460 persons have returned to Kosovo voluntarily from various countries in Western and Central Europe. To date — that is, since the establishment of UNMIK last year — a total of some 860,740 individuals have voluntarily returned to Kosovo, that is, since June 1999.

Forced returns to Kosovo continue on a daily basis, with more than 1,425 persons sent back during the month of June and more than 350 returned during the past week. These returns, mainly from Germany and Switzerland, have included 50 persons with criminal records. The high rate of forced returns has stretched the capacity of the airport and reception facilities as well as the absorption capacity of the local public services and the host communities.

Following the creation of the Joint Committee on Returns in May, a steering committee was established under the chairmanship of UNHCR. The role of this steering committee is to conduct joint assessments of potential return locations, through small teams of representatives from UNMIK, KFOR and SNC-Gracanica. Joint assessments have so far been undertaken for three locations proposed by the SNC-Gracanica. Progress, particularly in regard to what are called "go and see visits", has been set back by an increase in violent attacks against Kosovo Serb communities. However, the steering committee was tasked on 29 June with coordinating the first go and see visits of Kosovo Serbs to the province. The destination of the visit is to be Slivovo.

A letter to Oliver Ivanovic of the SNC-Mitrovica was also signed by the members of the Joint Committee on Returns. It asked him to join the Committee. However, so far he has not accepted that offer.

The issue of prisoners and missing persons remains, of course, a pressing concern for all communities. On 2 June representatives from the KTC working group on prisoners and missing persons met with a delegation of ministers from the European Parliament. The Kosovo Albanian representatives of the working group expressed their concern regarding the situation of Kosovo Albanians who are currently held in prisons in Serbia proper. Representatives of the Kosovo Serb community explained that they supported the release or transfer of Kosovo Albanian detainees held in Serbia proper.

At its meeting held during the first week of July, the working group expressed its concern regarding the treatment of Kosovo Albanians held in the Nis detention facility, and it officially transmitted this concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Turning to civil administration, work is continuing on re-equipping the judicial system. Bilateral support has played a key role in this effort. In June, last month, the United States Government donated a number of quick-start packages consisting of essential office supplies and equipment. These packages are being distributed to courts in four municipalities, and further deliveries are planned for the near future. The Swiss Government has also confirmed the provision of 1 million deutsche marks for Dubrava prison, and the Government of the Netherlands has agreed to provide and pay for four correctional officers for Ljlipjan prison.

A further 62 new local recruits have joined the Kosovo Correctional Service since June. Appointments to fill the vacant positions of local professional judges and local lay judges in Kosovo will be approved by the Special Representative by the end of this month. In the meantime, to date the Special Representative has appointed a total of five international judges and three international prosecutors, who are now serving in the district courts of Mitrovica, Pristina and Gnjilane.

Since the beginning of March, the Kosovo Protection Corps has completed some 228 field projects in which 1,450 of its members have participated. These projects included refurbishing schools, infrastructure repair and general cleaning up activities. Thirteen additional field projects are currently ongoing and planning for a further 50 projects is under way.

As regards the police component of UNMIK, as of 8 July it had reached a total strength of 3,895 out of an authorized strength of 4,718. This number includes

over 700 specialized police officers from six different specialized police units and two additional specialized police units are scheduled for deployment within the next two months.

I would like to say a word about economic reconstruction. Discussions within the Working Level Steering Group, including major donors, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, were held on the Kosovo Consolidated Budget. The Central Fiscal Authority estimates that there will be a further requirement of up to DM50 million in undesignated budgetary support and up to DM7.9 million in designated grants for the Kosovo Protection Corps activities. No firm commitment on the level of additional funds was given by the Working Level Steering Group, but this issue will be considered further at another review meeting in September.

On revenue collection, last week's revenue collection from customs, sales taxes and excise duties stood at DM4.5 million. This was a very good week for UNMIK, as this total exceeds the weekly target of DM3 million.

The white paper on enterprise development strategy has been presented to and received strong support from representatives of major donors, the World Bank and the IMF. The first steps in implementing the strategy in this regard will be to establish a basic commercial legal framework and an ownership adjudication tribunal. An agreement for the lease the Sharra cement factory was signed with Holderbank, a Swiss investor, on 13 June. The tender for the lease was the first of its kind in Kosovo.

Turning to utilities, on 20 June, the supervisory board of the Kosovo Power Company approved the action plan presented by the electricity company. The action plan aims at improving the general financial situation and management of the company. The power situation in Kosovo has been severe over the past week due to serious problems with generation capacity at both power stations. These problems were exacerbated by low coal production and the temporary absence of power imports from other countries in the region.

To conclude, I would like to say that UNMIK will continue in the coming weeks to concentrate on two pressing issues: first, the security situation and, secondly, the preparation for the municipal elections. Members of the Security Council are encouraged to provide both personnel and political support for the UNMIK police component. As is clear from the numbers I have given, international police officers continue to be needed. Statements of support for ethnic tolerance and denunciations of violence would also help to underscore the international community's abhorrence of continued and targeted attacks on minorities and the international community.

As regards the municipal elections, Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Turks should be encouraged to register, to participate and to understand that UNMIK is determined to continue the process of building democracy and the best possible institutions in Kosovo, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by this Council.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): I thank Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for his useful and comprehensive briefing. The hour is late and I will not attempt to emulate him, either in length or in detail, but I do want to make a few points which my delegation feels are relevant to our consideration of the situation in Kosovo as it now stands.

First, I would like to stress the importance that the United Kingdom attaches to the decision of the Kosovo Serbs, embodied by the Serb National Council of Gracanica, to rejoin the joint administration structures. That decision is right and brave and deserves our full recognition.

At the same time, we regret the decision of Hashim Thaci not to participate in the meetings of the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS). As we said last month to the Kosovo Serb delegation that was in this Chamber during the briefing given by Special Representative Kouchner, working with and within those structures is the best way towards lasting stability. We very much hope that Mr. Thaci will reconsider his position soon.

Assistant Secretary-General Annabi rightly concentrated on the security situation in Kosovo. We remain concerned about continuing violence against Serbs and other minorities. Mr. Annabi indicated the usefulness of statements deploring ethnic violence and asking for tolerance. He can take it that the United Kingdom is fully behind those sentiments. Those on the ground in Kosovo will be aware of the United Kingdom-led programme of the Kosovo Force (KFOR), Operation Trojan, although it may be less familiar to some of us in this Chamber. That programme is doing pioneering work in central Kosovo

to improve the security and quality of life of the Serb community. We hope others will replicate this example to help Serb communities elsewhere in Kosovo.

I would like also to draw attention to the vital importance of expeditiously putting in place procedures for the holding of municipal elections on time and on schedule. The Special Representative has yet to set a date for the elections, but I want to repeat now, as I said during our last briefing on Kosovo, a remark about the importance of registration and of participation in those elections by all the communities in Kosovo. It is of concern that the registration effort among the Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Turks has not yielded the results we had hoped for. I would urge everyone with an influence to redouble their efforts to ensure that the registration process is as full and as complete as possible.

My other comments will refer specifically to the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) and, in particular, to staffing issues. We welcome the decision taken by the Secretary-General to devolve responsibility for staff recruitment to UNMIK. We hope this will speed up the recruitment process and help to alleviate staffing shortages within UNMIK. It is very important that the Secretariat should get this right. Adequate staffing is a key and vital element of making the system work better.

As we have said before, reinforcing the justice system remains of key importance. I am pleased to be able to say that UNMIK has accepted two United Kingdom candidates as prosecutors. In response to UNMIK's request, we have sent in more than 60 applications for court clerks. We are now gathering applications for international judges and have received over 250 expressions of interest. We hope these applications can be processed quickly and turned into people on the ground, so that the work that so urgently needs to be done can be done.

Finally, the United Kingdom is playing its part in stamping out organized crime, which has had such a destabilizing effect throughout the Balkan region. We are on course to deploy 20 police officers and other specialists to form the core of the UNMIK criminal intelligence unit in late August. We hope that the final organizational arrangements, for us and other contributors to that unit, can be completed quickly.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi, for his briefing. The development of the situation in Kosovo during the month that has elapsed since our most recent discussion of the subject here has unfortunately emphasized that key provisions of resolution 1244 (1999) remain unfulfilled. The security situation for the non-Albanian population is continuing to deteriorate. Neither military nor civilian international presences have been able to do anything about that. The problem of returning hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons to the region has not been resolved.

We were interested to read an article in The New York Times on 3 July that referred to a comment by the former deputy head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Mr. McNamara, to the effect that from the very outset the leadership of that United Nations Mission did not make any effective efforts to put and end to the violence and that it tolerated intolerant and vengeful behaviour. All the warnings to the extremist leaders have remained merely words; they have not been followed up with any specific actions. Mr. McNamara correctly pointed out that the scale of the violence against the minorities shows how systematic it is.

From the outset of UNMIK's activities, no action was taken to put an end to what has now turned into a culture of impunity, so that ethnically based crimes go unpunished under the auspices of international presences. Mr. McNamara's analysis corresponds with the assessment in the report of Amnesty International published last month, and notes the passivity of certain divisions of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in the face of ethnic violence. This evaluation concurs to a large extent with our analysis of the situation in Kosovo, and given these conditions, Russia has clearly stated that it cannot support the holding of municipal elections in Kosovo this year.

We are not opposed to the holding of such elections in principle, but we cannot close our eyes to the fact that thus far not even the minimum necessary conditions have been created to enable them to be truly free, fair and democratic and thereby to serve as a basis for further progress in the peace process in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999). Such conditions can be created only if security and safety is assured for all the inhabitants of Kosovo and if there is freedom of movement for all, an open and free political environment and the safe return of refugees and displaced persons, and if guarantees for freedom of

assembly, freedom of association and freedom of speech are provided.

These are obvious facts. A detailed list of the universal criteria for conditions for the holding of elections — any elections — is to be found in the document of the second Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which was held in Copenhagen 10 years ago. It is very likely that such criteria are well known to all those who are preparing for the elections in Kosovo. Furthermore, paragraphs 7 and 8 of that OSCE document were included as an annex forming an integral part of the Rambouillet documents that refer to elections in Kosovo. We note, therefore, that the pre-electoral situation in that region is not in conformity with all of these requirements, first and foremost from the point of view of genuine safety and security for the non-Albanian population. A similar conclusion was reached recently by Human Rights Watch.

There is no machinery to date which can guarantee that the voices of the non-Albanian inhabitants of Kosovo will be heard, or ensure that they will be represented in the local organs of power. Not only would the non-participation of hundreds of thousands of such people in the elections distort both the ethnic and political picture in Kosovo, but this in turn would have a destabilizing effect on the situation in the region, including outside Kosovo.

We are convinced that under current conditions we cannot force through the holding of elections, because we would thereby block all the efforts being made to create a generally democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo. The policy being pursued to hold elections at all costs may simply lead to the legalization of the structures of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which, under the cover of the Kosovo Protection Corps, continues to indulge in lawlessness. I would also like to state that, in view of the possible consequences, the possible destabilization of the situation in the region that might result from the holding of the elections, we believe that the matter cannot be resolved by the leaders of UNMIK alone. UNMIK is directly linked to peace and security in the region and, therefore, the matter should be given serious consideration by the Security Council.

We are greatly concerned about the new facts that are being revealed about the violations of resolution 1244 (1999). Mr. Annabi told us that huge stocks of weapons are still being discovered. We know about that. It is revealing that, after the discovery of such weapons — which, as Mr. Annabi said, show every sign of being KLA weapons — the leaders of the Albanian separatists organized demonstrations and meetings to protest their confiscation. At those meetings they even demanded that the weapons be returned to the Albanians and that KFOR end its search for weapons. We would like to know exactly what the leaders of UNMIK and KFOR said in response to these demonstrations. In any case, we can confirm that there has been no real disarmament of the KLA.

Previous speakers have already mentioned that the actions of Hashim Thaci, who started the boycott of the Interim Administrative Council when the Kosovo Serbs were returning to it, did not serve the cause of reaching a settlement. We know that Hashim Thaci also gave Mr. Kouchner an ultimatum in the form of a statement consisting of 10 paragraphs setting out conditions for his return to the Interim Administrative Council. Such conditions include revising the agreements between the Serbs and UNMIK and more active involvement of KLA ex-combatants in local police forces, among others. We would be interested to know how Mr. Kouchner responded to that ultimatum. We wish to recall that we still have not received any appropriate replies to the concerns we expressed previously in connection with violations of resolution 1244 (1999). We know well what the questions were, but no replies have been received so far. The questions relate to the identity cards published by UNMIK, where it said "Kosovo" under "citizenship"; to the fact that diplomatic offices are being opened in Kosovo and are being visited by representatives of other countries without notice being given to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; and to many other facts.

UNMIK continues to attempt to amend the status of the Slatin airport in Pristina. The UNMIK leadership is trying to unilaterally amend the text of the military-technical agreement of 3 June 1999, in violation of the Helsinki Agreement. We have mentioned this frequently, but the attempts continue. No one has explained to us yet why the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999) have not been fulfilled, regarding the return of agreed-upon contingents of Yugoslav servicemen and policemen, why an agreement has not been reached with Belgrade on the status of foreign

missions in Kosovo and why proper cooperation has not been arranged with the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We believe that a rather belated step to correct this situation might be to start work in the joint consultative committee, which was referred to today by Mr. Annabi.

In this room one month ago, our delegation drew attention to a specific document which confirms that among the leaders of the Kosovo Protection Corps there are people with a criminal past, who have been involved in murder and provocation, of whom UNMIK and KFOR are aware. However, no response has been received in connection with these facts. Recently, we learned through non-governmental organizations that Kosovo has turned into a major staging point for drug smuggling into Europe. However, we have seen nothing in the Secretariat reports on this topic. We request the Secretariat to inform the Security Council whether or not it knows anything about drug trafficking through Kosovo.

In conclusion, Kosovo is, of course, big politics. But this should not be big politics for just one person, but the general policy for all members of the Security Council and of the United Nations. We have a consensus resolution, resolution 1244 (1999), which incorporates this policy on the behalf of the international community, but it is not being implemented and is even being violated in many key aspects. Russia will continue to seek the remedy of this situation so that the Kosovo settlement plan, which was unanimously approved by the Security Council, will be fully and comprehensively implemented.

Mr. Levitte (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish, at the outset, to thank you, Madam President, because this meeting devoted to Kosovo is taking place in a setting that makes it possible for States not members of the Council to hear firsthand, at an open meeting, information furnished by the Secretariat. It is our wish that this type of free and interactive format be retained to the extent possible at open briefings.

In this spirit and in response to the very comprehensive briefing given by Mr. Annabi, the French delegation will confine itself to three brief comments and one question.

First, on 9 June 2000, Mr. Kouchner came before the Council and gave us an overall assessment of the situation in Kosovo, one year after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). One of the major issues raised at that meeting was the question of restoring dialogue between the communities within the Joint Administrative Structures. A Kosovo Serb delegation was present, and their concerns were brought to the Council's attention. The Kosovo Serb representatives have since decided to participate again in the Joint Administrative Structures set up by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). We must welcome this decision and recall that all the Kosovo communities should enjoy equal security. Cooperation among representatives of all Kosovars and international organizations can only serve to promote this and make it possible to set up democratic institutions in which all acknowledge the others.

Of course, difficulties remains. Thus, we have taken note of what Mr. Thaci has said. We know that UNMIK and Mr. Kouchner are continuing their efforts to find a solution, and we encourage them in that direction.

Secondly, the next important stage will be the holding of local elections. Those elections may cause a genuine democratic shock among the Kosovar population, which will be positive for the development of this society. It is therefore essential that the elections be prepared meticulously. It is necessary to continue encouraging the Kosovar Serbs to participate. By creating impediments to registration and thus to participation of Kosovar Serbs in the elections, Mr. Milosevic is preventing them from deciding their own destiny and is showing that he is not, as he as pretends to be, the defender of their interests.

Thirdly, UNMIK's success does not rest solely with the establishment of political and administrative structures allowing future coexistence to prevail in Kosovo. Success also depends on its action to restore basic public services, rebuild housing and reopen schools. That counts above all in the eyes of the population.

The success of UNMIK has been possible thanks to contributions provided from the onset of the operation and, in particular, thanks to the contribution of the European Union. The European Union is still by far the major contributor to Kosovo, with a contribution of more than 3 billion euros in 1999 and 2000 in the civilian domain. Its member States provide almost two thirds of KFOR's troops, bringing the

European Union's total contribution to 8 billion euros for those two years.

Finally, I have one question. UNMIK must continue to have the necessary resources for its work, and particularly in the area of personnel. Could the Secretariat give us its assessment of personnel needs and steps planned to cope with the difficulties caused by rotation and departures in summer?

Mr. Cunningham (United States of America): As in the past, we see positive trends in Kosovo in the context of mixed and even troubling developments. We are pleased to note the continued leadership of Mr. Kouchner, the effective working relationship between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR), and the responsiveness of the Mission to the many difficult problems on the ground.

The level of violence remains unacceptable. We regret it; we want it stopped. But we should not be surprised. As we have all come to understand, there are no quick and easy fixes, just the continued requirement to seek progress. The progress that the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) is making to find qualified international judges, the cooperation between UNMIK police and the Kosovo Force (KFOR), and agreements such as the one with Bishop Artemije on security are all reassuring. However, as the Council's own mission to Kosovo stressed, we must be realistic in how we evaluate the situation on the ground and how we look at the efforts of UNMIK and KFOR.

We applaud KFOR's recent success in identifying arms caches and the ongoing efforts to strengthen control of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC). We are heartened by UNMIK's determined efforts to find the difficult balance between freedom of the press and security for individuals.

We continue to believe that in addition to strengthening the rule of law, the solution to the violence lies in the political process and the determined support of the international community.

Elections and a responsible governing structure are the best way to temper passions. We applaud the decision of the Kosovo Serbs to rejoin the joint interim administration. We are also encouraged that UNMIK and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have registered over 800,000 people for the upcoming municipal elections in the fall. They continue to look for ways to encourage Serbs and other minorities to participate in this process. This is important, and we should all join them in doing so.

Finally, we note that the United States has forwarded some 50 résumés of qualified candidates for staff positions in UNMIK in response to the appeal from the Secretariat. We will continue to support this process, and we encourage others to do so as well so that UNMIK has the staff and resources it needs to accomplish its difficult mandate.

I would also like to second Mr. Annabi's call for personnel and political support for the developing police force, and for our condemnation of violence no matter where it originates.

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): My delegation is grateful to Assistant Secretary-General Hédi Annabi for his comprehensive and extremely useful briefing. The situation in Kosovo continues to require the close attention of the Security Council, hence the importance of regular briefings given to Council members and the larger membership of the Organization.

My delegation would like to focus on a limited number of issues of particular importance to us.

First, the still-unsettled, and indeed precarious, security situation in Kosovo, as described by Mr. Annabi, remains a matter of very serious concern to my delegation. We continue to give our full support to the ongoing efforts of both the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to address this serious problem. We have also emphasized on previous occasions the need for the leaders of all the communities in Kosovo to play their constructive role to contribute to these efforts. We note some positive responses and actions taken in this regard.

We welcome the signing of last month of joint declarations at both Pristina and Gnjilane, in which the leaders of the Albanian, Serb and Turkish communities condemned all acts of violence and terrorism directed against any inhabitants of the two municipalities. At the same time, they committed themselves to work together for common peace and prosperity. This is indeed a very heartening development that represents a concrete contribution towards lessening inter-ethnic tension and that should be emulated by the other

municipalities throughout Kosovo, especially in Mitrovica.

Speaking of Mitrovica, the current de facto division of the city is unacceptable and must be reversed as soon as possible. Furthermore, the outbreak of a series of violence and rioting in the northern part of the town late last month — where UNMIK personnel and the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international personnel, as well as their offices and transport and other facilities were subjected to attacks by the Serbs — should be strongly condemned. Those responsible for these acts should be held accountable. On this point we have read about possible involvement by outside elements in those attacks and acts of intimidation. We wonder whether Mr. Annabi is in a position to confirm those reports and to tell us what actions have been taken to prevent such occurrences.

We note the signing on 29 June of the Joint UNMIK-Serb National Council (SNC) Understanding, which lays down additional steps to improve the situation of the Serb community in Kosovo. We certainly consider the initiative a very important part of UNMIK's efforts to improve the level of freedom, security and fundamental rights of the Serb community. However, we feel that the agreement by the Serb National Council of Gracanica to participate in the Joint Administrative Structures as observers for another three months, as its response to the Understanding, fell short of expectations. We, like others in the Security Council, have called for their full, active and unqualified participation in the Joint Administrative Structures.

Secondly, the signing of the Joint UNMIK-SNC Understanding has drawn a negative reaction from some quarters of the Kosovo Albanian community. At least, the leadership of one of Kosovo's largest political parties, the Kosovo Democratic Party (PDK), has decided to withdraw from the Interim Administrative Council (IAC). This is a serious setback. We would also appreciate it Assistant Secretary-General Annabi could enlighten us on any efforts being made to encourage the PDK to reconsider its position and return to the IAC. Their return and full participation is important. In this regard, we wish to underscore the importance for UNMIK to continue with the ongoing efforts at close and all-inclusive consultations with leaders of all Kosovo communities so as to further strengthen the IAC. We believe the efforts to engage local leaders and populations in the administration of Kosovo should be even more vigorously pursued at this critical stage so as to fully prepare the Kosovars to handle their own affairs.

My third point relates to the civil registration process and the holding of municipal elections in Kosovo this fall, for which, as Mr. Annabi has indicated in his briefing, preparations are well underway. We welcome Mr. Kouchner's issuance of UNMIK Regulation 2000/39 last Saturday, which outlines the necessary law governing the proposed municipal elections. We have urged all communities to participate in the registration process. We look forward to the successful conduct of the elections, which will lay a viable foundation for the future of Kosovo. We would be grateful for additional details as to the status of the registration and whether UNMIK expects to attain the target number of 1.3 million people registered by the closing date, on 15 July.

Finally, my delegation, along with many other members of the Council, had earlier expressed our strong support for the appointment of a special envoy of the Secretary-General to look into the issue of detainees and missing persons for reasons we had already explained — not the least of which is the need to resolve this sensitive and emotive issue in the larger interest of reconciliation among the Kosovars. We would be grateful if Mr. Annabi could update us on this important matter.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate once again its full support and appreciation to UNMIK and Mr. Kouchner for the efforts they have made in the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) in Kosovo. Important achievements have indeed been made, but many challenges still lie ahead before self-sustaining peace and stability can be established in Kosovo. Hence the need for the sustained and strong support of the Council and members of the international community for the efforts currently underway in Kosovo.

Ms. Moglia (Argentina) (*spoke from Spanish*): We would like to thank Mr. Annabi for the information he provided us this morning.

Since the meeting which the Council held on 9 June to hear a briefing by the Special Representative, Mr. Bernard Kouchner, institutional advances have been registered that include the establishment of the

office of the Ombudsperson. This institution is synonymous with democracy and respect for human rights, and we hope that it will begin its work soon. Its multi-ethnic and independent character will enable it to gain the trust of the individuals, groups and organizations which it is designed to serve.

Another factor we deem important because it relates to the very essence of the agenda for coexistence is the decision of the Serb National Council (SNC) to resume participation in the work of the joint institutions, even though it will do so as an observer and for a period of three months, not as a fully fledged member. We are aware that the SNC's decision is the result of the signing of an Understanding with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) whose goal is the adoption of concrete measures to guarantee the freedom, security and fundamental human rights of the Serb community in Kosovo. We hope that this agreement will be interpreted by the Serb community as proof positive that UNMIK and KFOR are committed to achieving a better future for all of the inhabitants of Kosovo.

We hope also that the Serb community in Kosovo will, for its part, cooperate decisively in the creation of a secure environment, not only for its own benefit but for the benefit of all. We also extend this appeal to the Kosovar Albanians.

That is why we deem unwise, to say the least, the decision taken by the leader of the Kosovo Democratic Party to suspend its participation in the Joint Interim Administrative Structure in response to the signing of the aforementioned agreement between the Serb National Council and UNMIK.

It is imperative that everyone understand that in Kosovo there must be room for all ethnic groups. As we have noted on other occasions, we believe that the next municipal elections will represent a good opportunity to ensure that everyone in Kosovo understands that life in democracy is based on participation, not exclusion. That is why we sincerely hope that all of the communities will participate in this process.

A democratic society, in addition to providing the opportunity to elect legitimate representatives, requires that justice and the rule of law prevail. That is why we must continue to work to put an end to acts of vengeance between ethnic groups and to bring their perpetrators to justice. These efforts must involve the media, which, under the pretext of freedom of the press, incite hatred and fuel the desire for vengeance.

We are concerned by the recent discovery by KFOR of large caches of arms. Though on many occasions we have been told that in this region it is common practice to carry a weapon and that the borders are porous, we must recall that resolution 1160 (1998), which imposes a weapons embargo and other prohibitions, remains in force and must be complied with, in particular by neighbouring countries.

Clearly reconciliation will be difficult to achieve if the refugees and displaced persons are not afforded the opportunity to return to a secure environment and if there is no resolution to the question of missing persons and persons who are being held in Serbian prisons.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude and support to UNMIK and the Kosovo Force.

Mr. Angell (Canada): I wish to thank Mr. Annabi for his very comprehensive briefing. We would like to add only a few brief remarks to what has already been said by others.

Special Representative Kouchner's issuance of the municipal election law for Kosovo, which Mr. Annabi has spoken of, is an important further step towards free and fair elections in the fall. Self-government on the local level will give Kosovars a chance to elect the leaders who conduct the politics which affect people most directly.

We are particularly pleased that, through extensive consultations with both local representatives and international organizations, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has decided on a system which will create optimal conditions for candidates to participate in local politics.

Pluralism will be promoted by the use of a proportional system with open lists. Representatives of smaller parties, groups or communities will stand a fair chance of being elected to office. The requirement that one third of all candidates on the top of the lists be women will reinforce the importance of equitable representation for all segments of society.

UNMIK faces important challenges in organizing free and fair elections. The support of the international community is essential if UNMIK is to succeed. Efforts must be made to prevent violence and intimidation

from being a factor in the elections. Ongoing intensive security measures are clearly needed in this regard. UNMIK's actions to ensure that the media refrain from publishing information which can reasonably be expected to incite hatred, intolerance or violence are also important. We encourage UNMIK to continue to monitor closely media operations in the run-up to elections in order to maintain civil law and order and to protect human rights.

As the close of the registration process approaches, we believe that all Kosovars have an interest in participating in the electoral process. Full participation is the best guarantee for all communities to be fairly represented at all levels of public administration and to contribute to the shaping of the future of the province.

Lastly, we support the creation of an ombudsperson institution in Kosovo and welcome the recent signing of its regulation by Mr. Kouchner. This institution can contribute in a meaningful way to the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). It will provide Kosovars of all ethnic backgrounds with a legal recourse against the violation of their human rights. We hope that Mr. Nowicki will start his important work as soon as possible.

Mr. Chen Xu (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like at the outset to thank Mr. Annabi for his briefing. We have taken note of the progress achieved by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) under very difficult circumstances, especially in the areas of infrastructure reconstruction, institution-building, the resettlement of refugees and the recovery of the economy.

We hope that UNMIK will increase its efforts to facilitate the participation of all parties and all ethnic groups in the Interim Administrative Council, thereby continuing to guarantee the multinational character of Kosovo.

The situation in Kosovo remains very serious. The Kosovo Serbs and other minority groups have been the victims of numerous attacks, and their human rights continue to be violated. We are deeply concerned about these developments, as these acts are obviously organized and premeditated. Investigations of these human rights violations have not yielded any results, and their perpetrators remain unpunished; indeed, there is a very serious situation of impunity. Facts have shown that the acts of violence committed in Kosovo are not ordinary acts of revenge or criminal acts, but part of an attempt to turn Kosovo into an area inhabited only by Kosovar Albanians. This trend is becoming increasingly obvious, which is very dangerous.

We are also very concerned at the fact that Serbian refugees are encountering numerous difficulties in the repatriation process, and that very few people have returned. On the one hand, the extremists among the Kosovo Albanians have resorted to acts of terror to discourage the Serbs from returning to their homes. At the same time, acts of kidnapping and murder have been committed against the refugees who have returned. The homes of the Serbs have been taken over or burned or looted. On the other hand, the protection measures of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) are not effective enough. Although the committee to help repatriate the Serb refugees has been established, not enough work has been done to adopt actual measures. Given the aforementioned circumstances, we are concerned that the election be conducted under safe, free and just conditions.

All in all, the situation in Kosovo is very serious. This shows that resolution 1244 (1999) has not been carried out in a comprehensive manner. We hope UNMIK and the Kosovo Force will make greater efforts to turn the situation around.

Mr. Jerandi (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): I too would like to thank you, Madam President, for having convened this open meeting and to thank Mr. Annabi for the exhaustive statement he has just made to us.

Not long ago, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the Council focused in detail on the evolution of the situation. At that time, in the light of the report of the Secretary-General and the statement of his Special Representative, the Council conducted a minute analysis of the situation. The situation has certainly improved, but it remains fragile and unstable. Like other delegations we feel that this was an interim report and that it behoves the international community to continue to track the situation steadily and periodically.

The critical emergency phase in Kosovo has passed without major incident. The number of refugees and displaced persons returning to Kosovo has reached 900,000, and basic social services have been restored and are functioning better, promoting a return to normalcy.

These grounds for hope, however, should not hide the often tragic reality in Kosovo and the tense relations among the communities. We would like here to express our concern about the wave of violence targeting the United Nations Mission and other international organizations that are coming to the aid of the inhabitants of this region. This wave of violence is unacceptable and is jeopardizing the joint efforts of the international community, as is the ethnic violence spurred by hatred and intolerance and directed at minorities. These things are to be condemned, and the authors of such acts should be prosecuted so as not to be allowed to act with impunity.

I would also like to address the question of the organization of the municipal elections. We think this is a decisive stage that should make it possible for the minorities to be represented in the municipal councils and in the decision-making bodies, and thus help establish the principles of multi-ethnic peaceful coexistence. We hope that the electoral campaign will focus on the future of the region and on the protection of minorities. We will follow with interest the registration process and the establishment of electoral lists.

The United Nations Mission should give priority to the issue of demining. We appreciate the work being done by those countries that are actively participating in the demining operation, and we urge the international community to support the efforts of UNMIK and of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in this area, so that the minefields that remain in Kosovo can be completely cleared.

We have already spoken on the question of the detainees and displaced persons. For us this is a constant source of concern. The inhabitants of Kosovo cannot become reconciled with one another if this question is not definitively resolved. An investigation should be carried out regarding disappeared and missing persons so as to learn what has happened to them. So long as this wound is not healed, it will be difficult to establish a truly multi-ethnic Kosovo. We reiterate here our support for the nomination of a special envoy for missing persons.

It is also important to note that the economic situation in Kosovo continues to improve. Economic prosperity will promote stability and social well-being. In this respect we feel that UNMIK must play a leading role in restoring confidence among investors in the future of this region.

We cannot overemphasize the need to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and multi-ethnic peaceful coexistence as the foundation for any lasting solution, not only for Kosovo, but for the entire region of the Balkans.

Lastly, I would like once again to pay tribute to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and to the dedication of its staff, as well as to all those who are active in the field. I would like to recall the positive role being played by moderate parties that have decided to work with UNMIK to achieve a better future for the entire region.

Mr. Kuchynski (Ukraine): I would like first of all to thank Mr. Annabi for his very useful and comprehensive briefing. We took note with satisfaction of a number of positive developments over the past few weeks in the area. Still, in view of the general situation in the province, we are not very optimistic.

Ukraine welcomes the fact that, largely due to the efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the Serb National Council took the decision to rejoin the Interim Administrative Council and the Kosovo Transitional Council (KTC) as observers, after having withdrawn for several weeks. We applaud the signing on 29 June of the joint UNMIK-Serb National Council understanding on the participation of Kosovo Serb representatives in the Joint Interim Administrative Structure institutions. The document laid out concrete steps to be taken by UNMIK to enhance security and access to services for the Kosovo Serb community, in particular the creation of the UNMIK Police Special Security Task Force. We consider these measures extremely important and timely, and in our view they are aimed at easing the hardships faced by the Serb community. At the same time, we regret the decision of the Kosovo Democratic Party (PDK) leader, Mr. Thaci, to suspend temporarily his participation in interim structures, in the wake of the above agreement. With the municipal elections coming, political games of this sort are counter-productive.

My delegation views positively the UNMIK efforts to build up the judiciary system in Kosovo through the further appointment of international judges and prosecutors to a number of district courts in Mitrovica, Gnjilane and Pristina. However, we would

like more clarity about the concept of establishing a Kosovo war and ethnic crimes court, as proposed by UNMIK, and about the correlation between its jurisdiction and that of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. I would be grateful to Mr. Annabi for additional information on this subject.

We welcome yesterday's nomination by the Special Representative of the Ombudsperson for Kosovo, to investigate and mediate complains from individuals, groups and organizations about possible abuses of power by international and local authorities. It is our hope that the creation of this post will contribute to establishing the rule of law and promote reconciliation between ethnic groups.

We remain convinced that progress towards turning Kosovo into a peaceful and tolerant, democratic and self-governing entity within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia cannot be achieved until and unless all ethnic groups' basic human rights — most of all the right to life — are protected. Unfortunately, the general situation regarding the security of the national minorities has not improved. On the contrary, the systematic and ongoing violence against non-Albanian minorities in Kosovo, especially against remaining Serbs and Gypsies, is on the rise. Therefore, we cannot be fully satisfied with the activities of UNMIK and the Kosovo Force (KFOR). While acknowledging their efforts to promote an atmosphere of safety and security, we encourage them to take a more assertive approach to stop all kinds of violence, as well as to eliminate the illegal possession of weapons. For example, the huge arms cache discovered by KFOR in Drenica in late June, allegedly belonging to the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), proved that the process of disarmament has not been effective and that there is an illegal arms flow in Kosovo. In this connection, we feel that the relevant Security Council Committee could be more effective.

We are similarly concerned by the increased number of attacks on UNMIK and KFOR personnel and their property. Such actions are absolutely unacceptable. My delegation welcomes the resumption of operations in northern Mitrovica by the humanitarian pillar of UNMIK, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

In the context of the preparatory work for the municipal elections to be held in October, my delegation is profoundly concerned by the fact that almost no Serbs have so far registered to vote. As we stated earlier, the abstention from participation of Kosovo Serbs in the civil registration process and municipal elections could throw their results into question and undermine the political credibility of the United Nations. We learned with interest of the UNMIK plan to establish quotas for national minorities in the municipal councils, irrespective of their participation in the elections. In our view, this approach, despite its good motives, could contradict the very notion of democratic elections and does not solve the problem of the participation of Serbs.

Last but not least, since the problem of the lack of UNMIK police personnel is still very critical, let me draw the attention of the Secretariat to the current situation of Ukraine's offer to provide UNMIK with a special unit of 115 policemen. Such a unit has been in standby readiness for a couple of weeks now, awaiting the United Nations inspection team to come to Ukraine at the beginning of July to authorize the unit's deployment. However, the United Nations inspection has been postponed several times for indefinite periods. We are really disappointed by the inconsistency of the United Nations Secretariat in tackling this issue, which is incompatible with the urgent need for additional police personnel in Kosovo, as was confirmed by Mr. Annabi today. We call on the Secretariat to re-address this matter as soon as possible.

Finally, let me also ask Mr. Annabi about the current state of and prospects for the adoption of the draft municipal regulation, which is meant to define the responsibilities and powers of municipalities. Just a few days ago, we received the UNMIK regulation on the municipal elections in Kosovo, which, without the regulation on the municipalities themselves, seems to be incomplete.

Mr. Ahmed (Bangladesh): You, Madam, have the appreciation of my delegation for holding this open meeting of the Council on the situation in Kosovo.

May I also begin by thanking Mr. Hedi Annabi for updating us on the issue. While many positive developments have been taking place in Kosovo under the United Nations administration, we feel that there should be a speedier return to normalcy of the situation in Kosovo. In this connection, we would like to make the following points.

First, as to staffing requirements, we are concerned that the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) has not been able to attain the desired level of staffing for civil administration and civilian police, as requested by the Secretary-General. There is no doubt that the situation needs further improvement. However, in addition to the ongoing efforts, the prerequisites include a full complement of police personnel, judges and civilian administration personnel, among others. Unless we can ensure the smooth operation of the civil administration with the requisite strength, the restoration of the desired level of security will doubtless be delayed.

My second point refers to missing persons and detainees. We have referred to this persistent problem quite a number of times in the Council. The persons who remain missing and captive are obviously the source of constant agonies and anxiety to their families. The continuation of such an unfortunate situation breeds mistrust and is therefore counterproductive to attempts at building interethnic harmony. The sooner the problem of missing persons is resolved, the better it will be for the outlook for peace. In this context, we support the appointment of a special envoy of the Secretary-General for missing persons and detainees in Kosovo.

My third point refers to elections. We are encouraged by the steady progress towards the holding of municipal elections. The recent draft regulation on the structure and function of municipal administrations throughout Kosovo, which was endorsed by Kosovo's Interim Administrative Council, is indeed a welcome development. We should believe that defining the powers and responsibilities of the municipalities is a prelude to establishing institutions for democratic and autonomous self-government at the municipal level and is an appropriate step towards the gradual transfer of administrative responsibilities from UNMIK to local authorities.

My fourth point refers to economic activity. The pace of economic activity in Kosovo has been slowly picking up. It is, however, still insufficient for the creation of requisite job opportunities for the people. The economy needs a significant boost, to which the international community and organizations can and should play an important role by providing an infusion of appropriate help and assistance. This will give the people of Kosovo the optimism to look forward to the future, rather than being haunted by their past miseries and plunging into desperate action and adventures.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the restoration of peace in the region, which has been a hotspot of conflict and inter-ethnic violence for a long time, is a task of immense complexity. Nonetheless, the notable progress already made shows that this is not impossible. What we need to do in the Council is to reiterate our strong support for the process of reconstruction and reconciliation already under way in Kosovo.

Mr. Scheffers (Netherlands): In view of the late hour and therefore the general desire to exhaust the list of speakers, I will be brief.

Like other delegations, we attach the highest priority to the preparations for the municipal elections to be held this fall. We welcome the fact that Mr. Kouchner has now signed the regulation on the conduct of these elections. We should therefore continue convincing the Kosovo Serbs that it is in their own interest to participate in these elections, meant to establish local self-government as a major step towards a truly multi-ethnic Kosovo. We also therefore continue to be concerned at the ongoing violence committed against the minority communities, the personnel of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and local politicians, including recent clashes among the Albanian parties themselves.

We have expressed our strong support for Mr. Kouchner on several occasions, but this time we do so with added conviction on account of his special arrangements for Kosovo Serbs. We reject the criticism voiced by some Albanian quarters that these undermine the principle of a unified and multi-ethnic Kosovo. In the present circumstances, additional protection for minorities is more than justified. We therefore call on Mr. Hashim Thaci to resume his participation in the Joint Interim Administrative Structure as soon as possible.

Mr. Andjaba (Namibia): We, too, would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for his comprehensive briefing on the situation in Kosovo.

My delegation wishes to express its support for the men and women of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) for their dedication and good work, sometimes performed in very difficult circumstances.

We also note with appreciation the partnership for security being forged between UNMIK and KFOR on the one hand and various communities in Kosovo on the other. As for the election, we note the progress made with regard to the election registration process, and we hope that the contacts between the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and UNMIK will facilitate and encourage the participation of all the communities. In this regard, we wish to stress that all efforts must be brought to bear to make it clear, especially to the communities of the Serbs and Turks who decided not to participate, that it is in their best interests to participate in free and fair elections for a multi-democratic Kosovo.

We would also like to acknowledge the institution of the office of Ombudsperson, which has been established to see to it that all minorities and other communities have a say in Kosovo.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Jamaica.

Last month, the Security Council had the opportunity to be briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Mr. Bernard Kouchner, and to hear his assessment of the progress made by UNMIK since its establishment by the Security Council in June 1999. My delegation shared Mr. Kouchner's assessment regarding the magnitude of the unique undertaking entrusted by the international community to UNMIK and the Mission's critical role in promoting peace, reconciliation and stability, in creating viable and democratic structures and in establishing a framework for sustainable development in Kosovo.

As many of the issues of concern to my delegation have been raised by other speakers, I will limit my statement to a few brief remarks. It is evident from today's briefing by Assistant Secretary-General Annabi that the advances made in the area of the civil administration of Kosovo are being hampered by continued ethnic violence. The gains made are not sustainable in an environment of violence and fear. Equal importance must therefore continue to be given to the promotion of reconciliation and tolerance. It is in this context that the reports of the discovery of caches of weapons are deeply disturbing to my delegation, and we look forward to being informed of the results of the investigations being carried out by UNMIK and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and to the prosecution of those responsible.

We have noted the special measures being put in place to better protect the Serb communities, and we join other members of the Council in welcoming the signing of the Joint Understanding between UNMIK and the Serb National Council of Gracanica on additional measures to protect the freedom, security and fundamental rights of the Serb community. We were therefore very disappointed at the announced withdrawal of the Kosovo Democratic Party leader Thaci from the Joint Interim Administrative Structures, and hope that this decision will be reversed.

We wish to reiterate our concern about the attacks on humanitarian agencies and personnel, and we hope that, with the resumption of humanitarian activities, more focus will be given to the protection of these personnel. We wish to underline our support for the efforts being undertaken by UNMIK and KFOR to deal with the security of international personnel.

With regard to the operation of the media in Kosovo, my delegation is of the view that there must be responsible, unbiased reporting, as misrepresentation of facts in this volatile environment can have lethal consequences.

We note that the municipal election law that was signed on 10 July has been implemented and that the civil registration period will close on 15 July. We are disappointed to learn about the limited number of Serbs who have registered to participate, as we believe that it is necessary to ensure, as far as possible, the participation of all ethnic groups in these elections in order to encourage a sense of ownership of the democratic process.

On other issues, my delegation shares the views expressed by the representatives of Bangladesh and Malaysia on the staffing of UNMIK and the need to resolve the situation of missing persons and detainees.

In conclusion, I again wish to thank Mr. Annabi for his briefing and reiterate Jamaica's support for UNMIK as it seeks to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council.

I now resume my function as President of the Council.

I give the floor to Mr. Annabi to respond to the questions and comments made.

Mr. Annabi: As it is rather late, I will try to be brief and will be ready to revert at a later stage with additional replies to some of the questions that I might not address now.

We have, of course, taken note of the concerns that have been expressed by Ambassador Lavrov and the representative of China regarding the holding of the municipal elections, and we will certainly convey these concerns to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The regulation that has been adopted to govern the conduct of municipal elections makes it clear that the announcement of the date of the municipal elections will be made by the Special Representative after consultation with the Secretary-General and the Deputy Special Representative in charge of institution-building. In making that determination and setting the date, they will, of course, pay careful attention to all aspects, including security conditions and other aspects that may disrupt the holding of a credible and fair election.

On the discovery of the weapons caches and the reports that the Albanians have demanded the return of these weapons, I mentioned the statement by Mr. Ceku, the head of the Kosovo Protection Corps, welcoming the discovery by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) of these weapons, and therefore I am not aware of any intention on the part of KFOR to return those weapons to whomever they may have belonged.

As regards Mr. Thaci's refusal to participate in the Joint Interim Administrative Structures, in view of the conclusion by Mr. Kouchner of a Joint Understanding with Bishop Artemije regarding security conditions for the Serb minorities, Ambassador Lavrov asked what Mr. Kouchner's response was. Mr. Kouchner has made it clear that this Joint Understanding is aimed at improving conditions for minorities, and for the Serb minority in particular, and he pointed out to Mr. Thaci that the position they have taken may be seen by the international community as opposition to ensuring security for the minorities, and that may, of course, have negative consequences for the assistance that the international community is extending to Kosovo. He has therefore urged Mr. Thaci to reconsider and to cooperate with UNMIK in creating an environment in which better security conditions can be put in place for all communities in Kosovo.

As regards the issuance of identity cards, these provisional identity cards, issued by UNMIK as people are registered, contain UNMIK symbols with information appearing in both Albanian and Serbian Cyrillic script. These identity cards are strictly for use within Kosovo and do not contain any reference to citizenship. There may have been one or two isolated mistakes at the very early stage of UNMIK regarding the issuance of birth certificates, but that has been corrected, and we are not aware of any identity cards referring to citizenship. Clearly, they do not contain reference to citizenship and are not delivered for that purpose.

On the establishment of liaison offices in Pristina, the purpose of these liaison offices of certain Member States in Pristina is essentially to organize and coordinate the cooperation between UNMIK and the international donor community. They are not intended to be diplomatic missions. They are not regarded as diplomatic missions, and certainly the privileges and facilities that may be extended to them will be construed in a way that makes that point clear. Again, it is essentially to facilitate cooperation between UNMIK and the donor community.

As regards the question by Ambassador Levitte as to the outstanding requirements for personnel in UNMIK and the measures that have been taken to replace those who may be leaving at the end of their term and in the course of the summer,

(*spoke in French*)

I would like to mention, in that respect, that last month, during Mr. Kouchner's visit, we distributed an exhaustive report on the need for additional personnel, with descriptions of the posts. I therefore think that Member States have accurate information available on the needs that continue to exist. With regard to replacement and rotation, we have, as mentioned here, delegated the maximum responsibility to UNMIK on the ground to proceed with these replacements and to inform us of their needs. In fact, we have just appointed as Director of UNMIK Administration Mr. Da Costa, who was the head of recruitment for peacekeeping operations, to personally ensure that recruitment takes place as quickly and as comprehensively as possible. Of course, we will call Member States' attention to new or additional needs which might be pointed out to us by the Mission.

(*spoke in English*)

As regards the efforts being made by UNMIK to persuade Mr. Thaci and the Kosovo Democratic Party to return to the Interim Administrative Council, I can assure Ambassador Hasmy that this is something that Mr. Kouchner is actively working on. He is in touch with them to persuade them that it is in their best interest to participate in these structures, because their refusal and the motives invoked for their refusal to participate may be counterproductive and counter to their own interests. So he will continue his efforts to persuade them to participate, just as he has worked actively to persuade the Serbs to also participate.

On the issue of the designation of a special envoy for missing persons, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is currently exploring the conditions under which this can be done. We will keep the Security Council informed of developments. I do not have more information on this issue at this point.

Turning to the question raised by the Ambassador of the Ukraine and to the issue of the establishment of the Kosovo war and ethnic crimes court, this court has not yet been established. We have been consulting with the Legal Office, with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in this regard. The ICTY has confirmed publicly that there would be no conflict between this proposed court and the ICTY. This war and ethnic crimes court would deal with crimes committed in Kosovo, but the ICTY can request that any crime committed during the war in Kosovo be directed and referred to it.

I regret the delays regarding the deployment of the special police unit from Ukraine. I will, of course, look into it. These deployments involve a complicated process. The unit needs to be ready, and I welcome your confirmation that the unit is ready. We need to send teams to visit these units, to discuss the arrangements and the equipment they need to have. We try to coordinate these visits so they can cover several countries at the same time. That sometimes creates some delays, but of course it is based also on financial considerations, to try and avoid unnecessary expenses. Finally, we have to have in place the necessary structure to accommodate them when they arrive in theatre. So we need a combination of these three different conditions in place to be able to affect the deployment. We will do what we can to activate this in cities in UNMIK's interest.

Finally, on the question regarding regulation on the municipalities, there is indeed a regulation which will establish the numbers, names and boundaries of the municipalities, which is being finalized. I totally agree with you that one does not go without the other. In other words, the regulation on the conduct of the municipal elections cannot be implemented without the issuance of the regulation on the boundaries of the municipalities. This regulation, as I said, is being finalized and will be adopted soon.

That, I think, covers some of the main questions.

The President: Let me thank Mr. Annabi, first of all, for his very useful briefing and for the answers he has given to the questions raised.

There are no other speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 2 p.m.